3
響
ひびき
小説家になる方法
柳本光晴
MITSUHARU YANAMOTO
BIG COMICS SUPERIOR

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響

ひびき

小説家になる方法

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3

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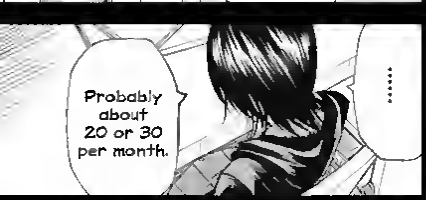
17: Review session



...I love them.
17: Review session

I love reading and writing them.
It's like they're touching my heart.
I can't really imagine myself as an author,
but I'll be writing novels from now on.
So I'll let you decide what to do with them.
Sure.

13
...are you still hung up on that?
why didn't you put your contact details on the work you submitted?
But, if you really love novels,
I wanted to confirm my own sense of worth
I just wanted to ask for your impression.
It's just as I said on the phone.
We're done already, right?
I'm hungry.
Have you ever doubted your own worth?
I never even thought about being an author
Well, whatever.
I can contact her whenever I want from now on.
Yeah, we're done already
That's right
To be honest, the fact I'm here in a publishing company now doesn't feel real.

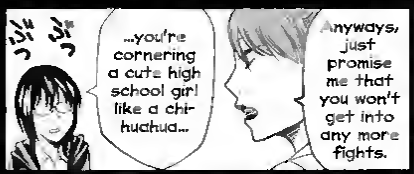
We sent the candidate works to the homes of the selection committee members, who are also authors themselves,
and we'll decide on the winning work after holding a meeting in August, next month.
As for what'll happen afterwards,
next is the final round selections.
You should really look forward to it.
Your *Fairy-tale Garden* is going to win for sure.
This isn't a question, but a warning.
And one more thing.
No more violent actions from now on.

I heard from Rika-chan
that wasn't the first time you knocked a bookshelf down, right?

!

I'm still your friend,
but if the police gets involved I won't cover for you.
...what kind of person do you think I am?

You're misunderstanding me. You're making me look completely insane here.
And you jumped off the roof...
And you sent an upper classman to the hospital after you entered high school...


...you're cornering a cute high school girl like a chihuahua...
Anyways, just promise me that you won't get into any more fights.

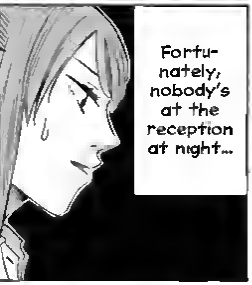
Promise me.

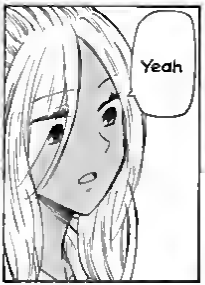
Fine.
I don't remember starting any fights in the first place.

I may be hearing only half the story but I don't want your authorial career to end over someing minor

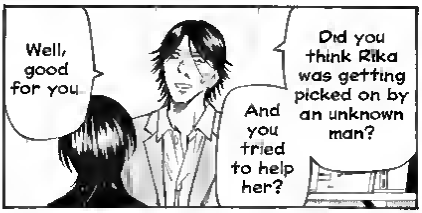
Okay!
Let's go back to Rika-chan's place
And the whole jumping off a roof thing is a lie.
That was just a little accident.

...what's with you?
Are you okay, Kijima-sensei!?
Kijima-sensei was picking a fight with Rika-chan,
and Hibiki split them up...
Forcing your way into them aside...
Hi...
!
And your opponent is Kijima Hitoshi, of all people,
a member of the selection committee...
What was the point of that whole promise from earlier?
Why the kick?


Fortunately, nobody's at the reception at night...


Yeah

...your friend, Rika?

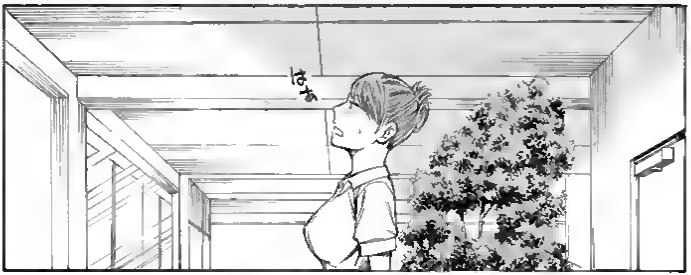

Well, good for you.
And you tried to help her?
Did you think Rika was getting picked on by an unknown man?

Kijima Hitoshi.

do you know who I am?
And, well,

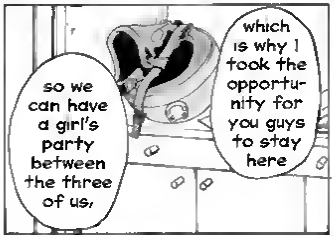
An author who used to sell well.

And he was fighting with a high school girl.
He's a man of standing, so he won't make a big deal of this, right?
Even if he wasn't at fault, he must've seen those words coming.
Yeah, yeah.
There's no point in taking a child on seriously.


Ugh

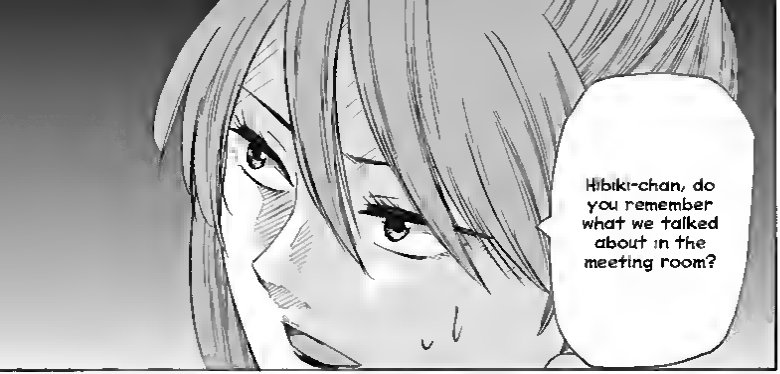
Right
Yeah.
...let's head out, too.
You got permission to stay over, right?
We'll talk at my place

Yonteku
RISE

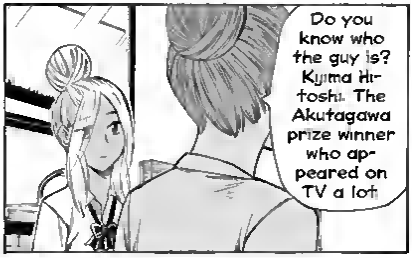

so we can have a girl's party between the three of us,
which is why I took the opportunity for you guys to stay here

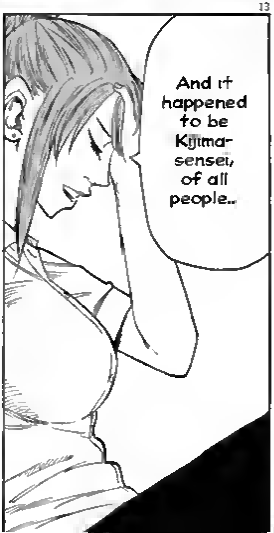
I had you guys came all the way from Kanagawa to Tokyo after school finished,

but now it's a review session.


Hibiki-chan, do you remember what we talked about in the meeting room?

...you have three little sisters and you wanted an older sibling.
I told you to never use violence.
It was right before that happened. Even a chicken would remember.


Do you know who the guy is? Kijima Hiroshi. The Akutagawa prize winner who appeared on TV a lot


And it happened to be Kijima-sensei, of all people...

Uhhh...
And he's also in the selection committee...

...I mean,
well,
Okay?
it's not what you think...
I remember what you told me, Fumi,
but

my friend was being bullied
so I had to help her, right?

I found this kinda weird.
without violence.
there were better ways to do it,
...like I said,

Why didn't you kick him down?
...look, Hibiki-chan,
... yeah.
You're asking why I stayed quiet when I was being picked on? It's because I didn't want to bother papa.
The way she did it was problematic, but Hibiki-chan helped me back there.
There are a lot of people who hate him,
so some people can't help having unjustified hatred, especially Kijima-san.
So why is Fumi-chan so mad at her...?
Then she should've stopped him herself...

Get it?
You can't bear all the responsibility all by yourself in the adult world.
If you go on a rampage, you're going to bother a lot of other people. Remember that
I get it.
Okay, I'll go warm up the bath.
Haahh
Rika-chan.

I'm sorry.
Next time, I'll give him a good slap.

She's way too clever at following up.
I'm really happy.
Fuuck.

I have a pretty big bath,
so why don't you go in with Hibiki?
Don't worry about me.
I don't really mind.

Hibiki-chan,
did you ask Fumi-chan about her three sisters?
Why?
...no? She was the one who told me.
TSUß
Doesn't really matter.

Because I never knew that.
Yeah
Rika, was I a nuisance?
19
but he's making his daughter and friends worry over him
Besides, if papa was better at dealing with the world, he wouldn't be making so many enemies,
Kidding.
Well, don't worry about it. I was at my limit as well.
Ahah hah.
I see. That'll help.
I'll take responsibility for my own actions.
Relax.

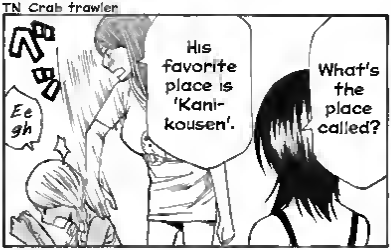
...are you serious? It's only 10pm.
Alright you two, get in your futons!

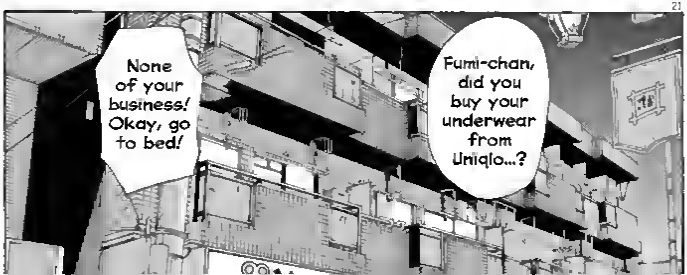
That may have been true in your time
You two are still in high school Children have their bedtimes.

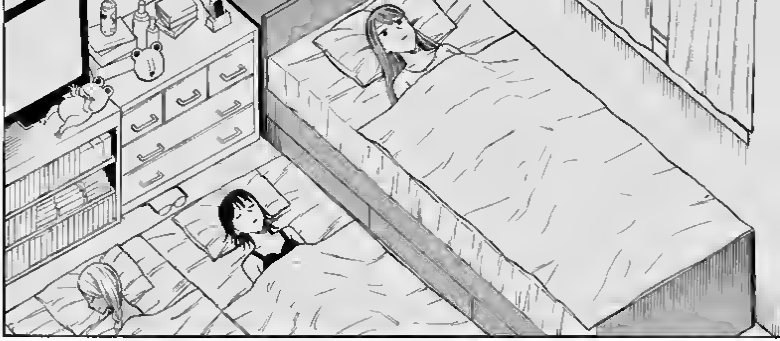
20

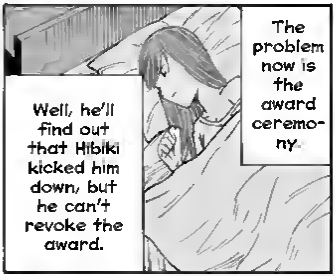
Ahh, I believe he had a meeting with the writer Yoshino Kikyou.
why did Kijima Hitoshi come to Shouronsha today?
Hey, Fumi,

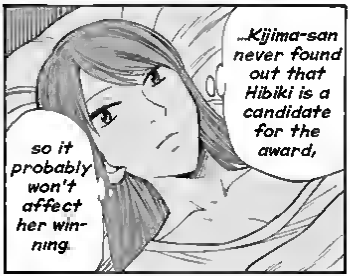
TN Crab trawler

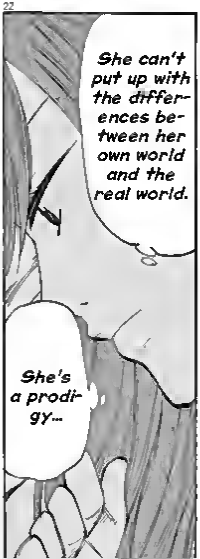







The problem now is the award ceremony.
Well, he'll find out that Hibiki kicked him down, but he can't revoke the award.

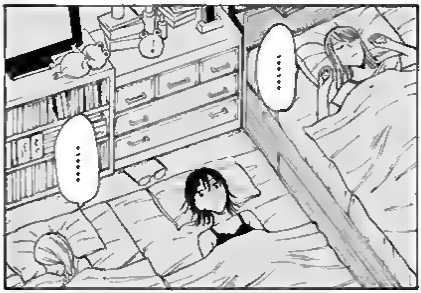

...Kijima-san never found out that Hibiki is a candidate for the award,
so it probably won't affect her winning.


She can't put up with the differences between her own world and the real world.
She's a prodigy...

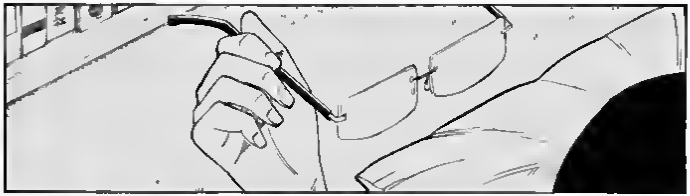
...Hibiki
looked like she wanted to fight.

I'm annoyed
and worried,
but also very happy.
I'm carrying a giant bomb here.

I'm so embarrassed I want to die.
I'm not a grade schooler
She'd probably answer Hibiki-chan.
I want to be like Hibiki-chan
"Who's your closest friend, me or Hibiki-chan?"
...in the end
I want to ask Fumi-chan something.

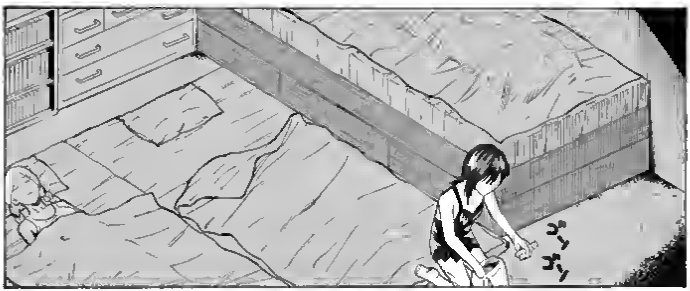

……
……

You two asleep?



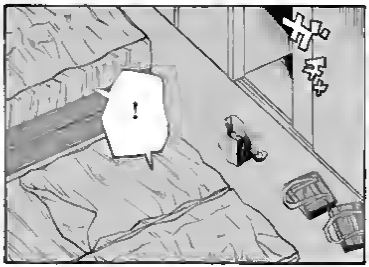
ムラ。。

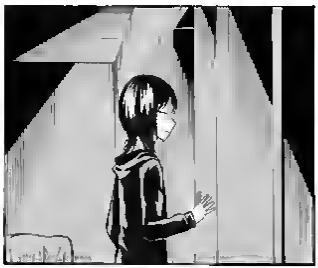
18: Departure

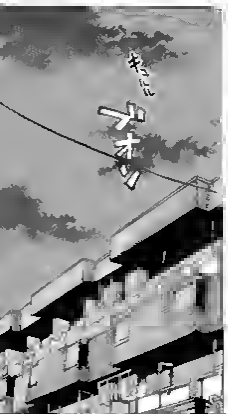

ガシ

2

A phone?
That's my bag.
She probably won't take my wallet.
She's looking for some-thing.
There it is.


ガチャ
!

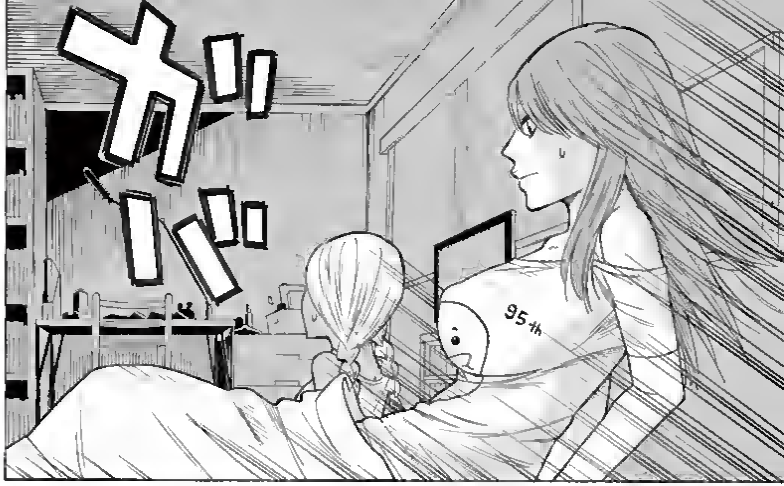


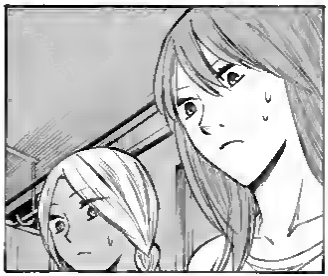

キュルル
ブオン

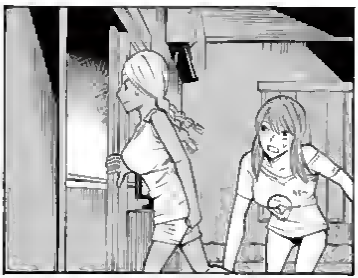
Where is she goi...?

No way, should I stop her?
But...

She left?


ガバ
95th



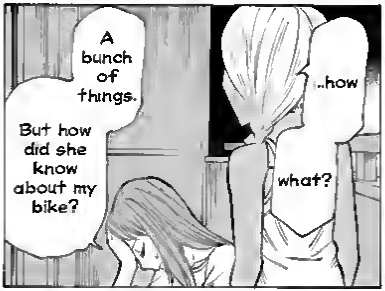


ニシムラ95周年

Come on...
Huh...?

How..

Is that your scooter there?
...yeah.


A bunch of things.
But how did she know about my bike?
..how
what?

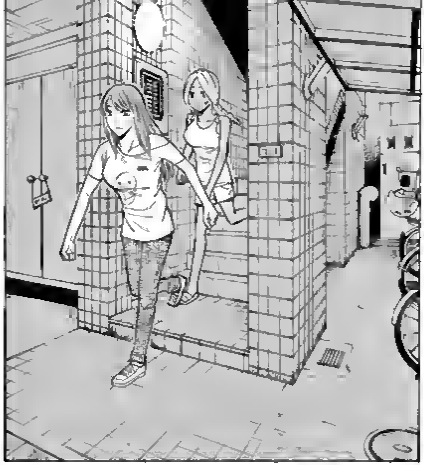
But how can she ride one?
There's no way she has a license.

...She probably saw the helmet at the entrance.
I think she figured out which one of the 2-3 bikes parked out in front of the apartment was yours.

Even so,
where would...?

Huh...
Maybe her brother taught her?
Anyone can ride a scooter after getting 5 minutes of lessons.

I take responsibility for my own actions.
Where...
But I can't imagine her just wanting to have a joyride, even though it's Hibiki-chan here.
No way...
Jinbouchou Kani-kousen

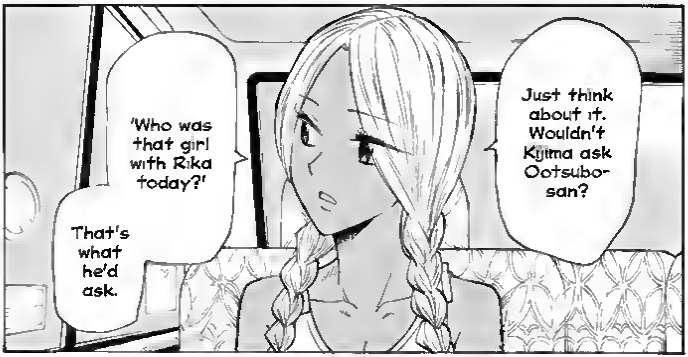


Okay.
To Jinbouchou.

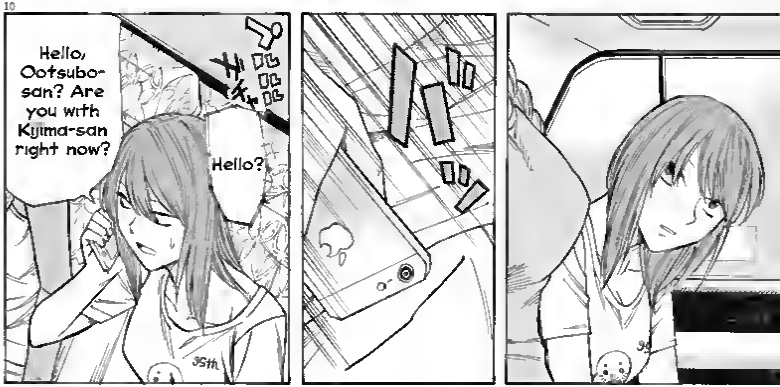
Over here, huh.

I think it has to be where Kyima's at.
She asked where he was now
Come on..
...my God.
Seriously?
So basically, she's going there to say that he picked a fight with Akui Hibiki herself?
Probably.
She thought she was being a nuisance,
so maybe she went to follow up.
...but, like,
did you get Ootsubo-san to keep it a secret?
If he finds out that Hibiki is up in the final round, who knows what he'll tell the committee...
...why is she bringing it up again?
Does she realize that he's a member of the selection committee...?

Kijima's editor is Ootsubo-san, correct?
And they met today.
Ootsubo-san?


'Who was that girl with Rika today?'
That's what he'd ask.
Just think about it. Wouldn't Kijima ask Ootsubo-san?

10


Hello, Ootsubo-san? Are you with Kijima-san right now?
Hello?
35th
99

Yeah, I'm drinking with him at Kanikousen.
tch
Uhh, this is a weird request, but could you not tell Kijima-san about Hibiki?
.....
Why?
For reasons!
She's desperate
because she's stopping Hibiki-chan,
who made a move for my sake
There's nothing to talk about...

He's reading Akui Hibiki's novel now...

Kijima asked me who was the girl with Rika-chan today.
..why?

.....

Hey, I'm together with Yoshino-sensei now, so if that's all, I'm gonna hang up.
he told me he wanted to read it on my tablet.
When I told him that she was a girl who made it to the final round of the newcomer award selection because of her amazing novel,

...
Kijima-san,
did something happen with Akui Hibiki?
No, it wasn't anything big at all.
What was it about?
I'm very sorry, that was Hanai Fumi from our company.
and we're at a drinking party.
since you asked me to show you,
In any case, it's already been 30 minutes
wah
13

Welco...

How old are you, young lady?
Hey, hey!
ah

Kyima Hitoshi

Hm?

Uhhh...
Who're you looking for?

Akui...
Hibiki?
Wha.
!
You have some business with me?
How did you know I was here?
...how did you know?
Ootsu-bo...
This guy told me about you.
I see...
Hanai Fumi
told me that this was your favorite spot.

What do you want?

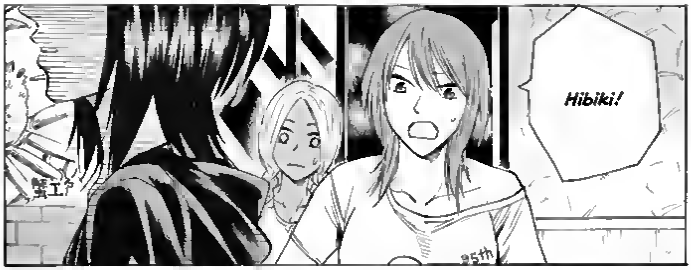
There's something I forgot to say.

I've wanted to punch you for a long time now.

I may have kicked your face in earlier, but Rika doesn't have much to do with that.

ssth

If you have any complaints, say it to my face.


Hibiki!
95th

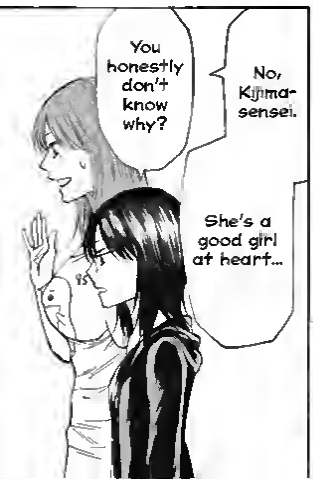
...you got kicked?

!

Hana...
I-I haven't done anything yet.
I'm so sorry, Hibiki has...

N-no...
Hana!
Did you bring her here!?

...that has nothing to do with what's happening now
Driving without a license.


You honestly don't know why?
No, Kijima-sensei.
She's a good girl at heart...

Why do you hate me?

I don't get it. I've been living every day of my life in sincerity,
yet a high school girl hates me after our first meeting
...
Mgh.
Oh my God, please!
Shut up!

my novels are boring as fuck now.
because, if anything,

Yeah.
Wha...

You were a genius long ago.
Your debut work was about a sanitorium after the war,
about an old lady who took care of a little girl.
The theme about exploring life and death may have been plain and ordinary, but you scripted an extraordinary death.

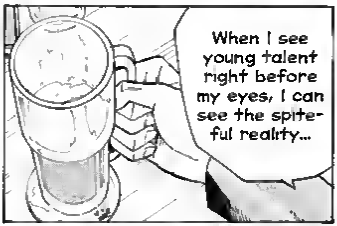
You won the Akutagawa with your fifth work.
Then from the sixth onwards, you repeated the same story over and over again.
Stories that only made me feel deja vu.
Not a single one was interesting.

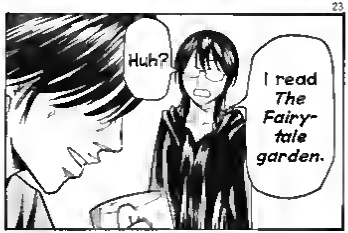
The job of an author isn't to merely arrange Japanese words around
Your job is to move people's hearts, correct?

This girl's just a little...
Kyima-sensei! I am so, so sorry.
Do your job proper...
ギュッ
……

Even now, I remember that feeling of accomplishment when I won the Akutagawa with *The country of withered flowers*.
Ever since that moment,
It's just as you said.
My talent is now long gone.

I never really had anything to say about the world anymore


When I see young talent right before my eyes, I can see the spiteful reality...


Huh?
I read *The Fairy-tale garden*.

I'll leave moving the world
to you now.

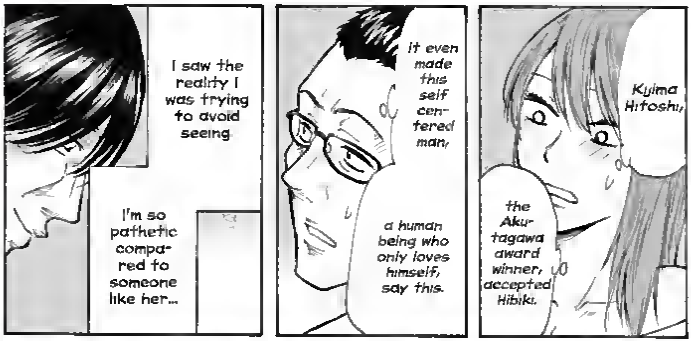
It was entertaining.

When was the last time I was so honest with myself and with other people?
...I never imagined that even Kijima-san, an Akutagawa prize winner, would give it so much praise...
This girl's novel has the power to change others.

.....

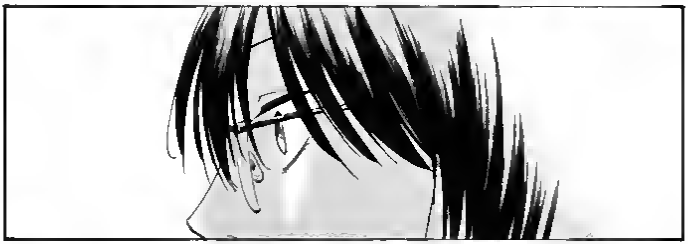
19: How I die.

I'll leave moving the world
to you now.


I saw the reality I was trying to avoid seeing
I'm so pathetic compared to someone like her...
It even made this self-centered man,
a human being who only loves himself, say this.
Kijima Hitoshi,
the Akutagawa award winner, accepted Hibiki.

...

Then why...?
Yeah
You don't have anything you wanna write?



Ah...
95th

I see...

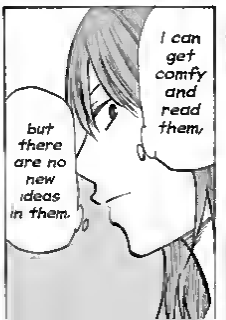
No, uhh
"Why..."
What?

I had them long ago.
Is it my creative urges? Is it my inspiration?
Is there a way to bring back what I need to create works?

What?
Is there something?
Am I still...

4

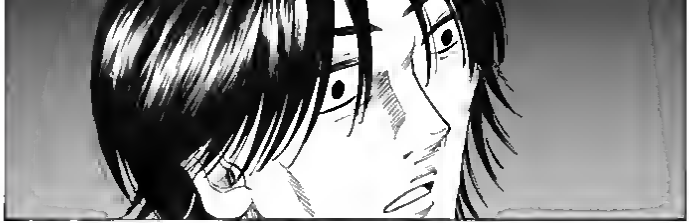
Frankly...
they're novels that don't need to exist.


I can get comfy and read them,
but there are no new ideas in them.

Everything Hibiki said about Kyama-san
is honestly correct...

What would you do, if your talent withers and dies?
What would Hibiki do?
What?!
What would you do?
もじ
Then, why
もじ
Uh...

are you still alive...?
もじ



I just realized this now,
but authors who cannot create new works...
Uhh... people we call "vanished authors",
how do I put this...

Even if they say they'll die, they can't really commit suicide...
もじ
But if I think about it really, really hard, that can't be true.
もじ

they have to stay alive...
and lose their purpose in life,
So even if they lose their ability to write good novels,

Kinda seem like they're dead.
TEHEHEH

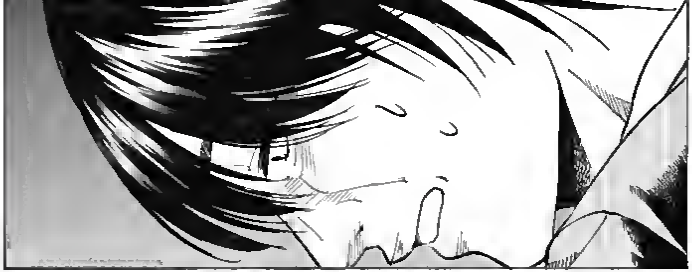
it must be really hard to...
Uhh

Live a nice life after that...

If only...

I could punch this shitty girl right here...

If only I could vent my emotions,
without thinking about my future,
regardless of whether people are watching me or not...
I would've done it before
to protect my pride.



You'll understand one day...

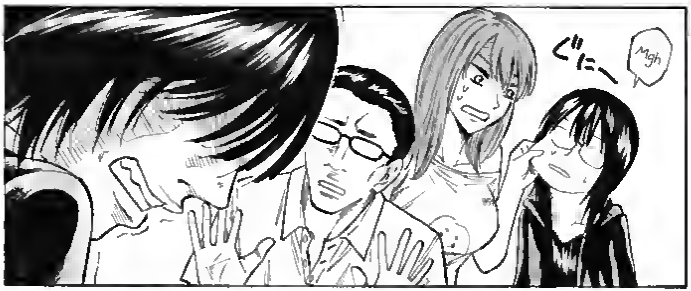
It's...
People will accept the values you have.
You'll get a job, money, and social standing.

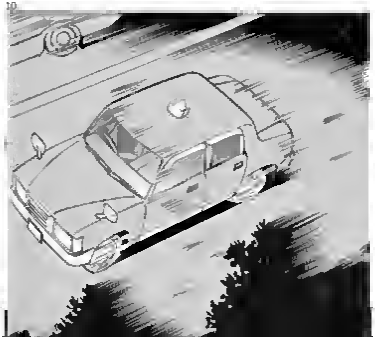
When your own world
come into agreement...
and reality

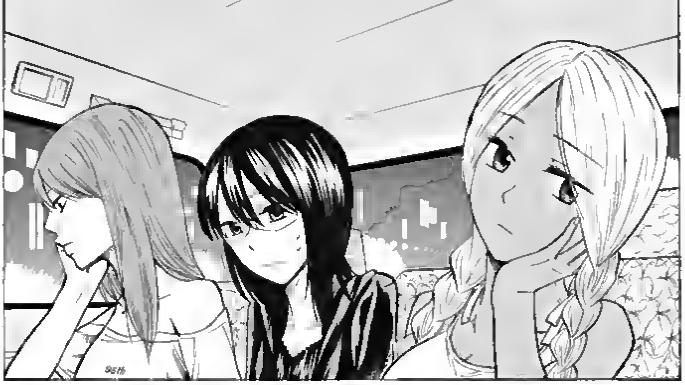
Kijima-sensei...

The comfort of the shackles we call stability...

Hmm.


ぐにー
Ugh





and the teacher would come pick them up.
I see this scene a lot.
In most cases, the dark girl would've forced the glasses girl to go out,
then they would've been taken into custody

I have two kids at this hour,
and one adult.

Hibiki..

You mad..?

So what about the bike..?
I'll ride it home on monday.

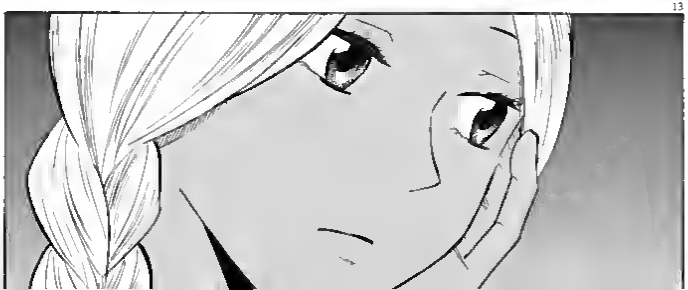
Well...
do you plan on dying
if you can't write stories anymore...?

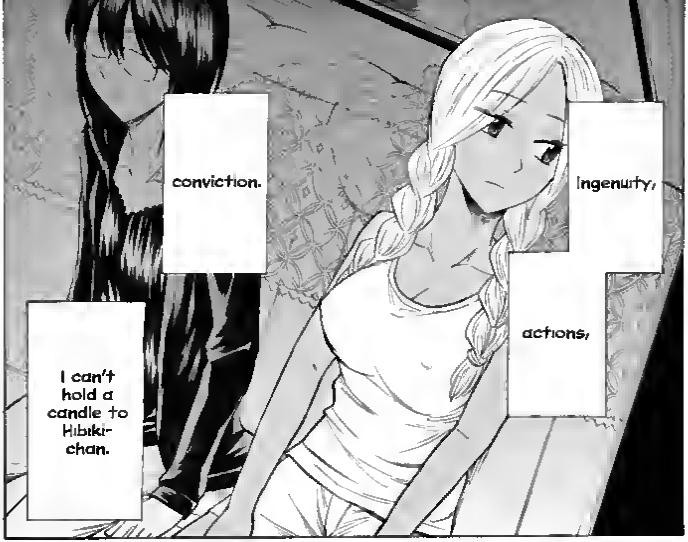
"Well" what...?

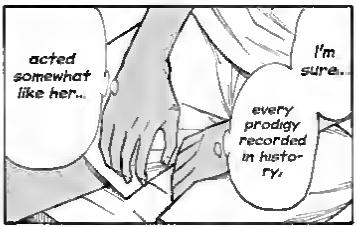
I'm still not ready to put my life on the line for this yet
At the very least,
I don't really know what it feels like to run out of things I wanna write about.

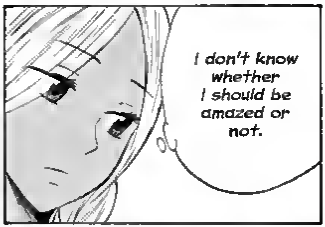
Hon-
estly...
She
should've
said
"You
don't have
to think
about
something
so heavy"
I think
that's why
I still can't
imagine
myself as
an author
now.

to put
her life
on the line
for her
writing
I also
want
Hibiki,
the one
I hold
dear,




conviction.
Ingenuity,
actions,
I can't hold a candle to Hibiki-chan.


acted somewhat like her..
I'm sure..
every prodigy recorded in history,


I don't know whether I should be amazed or not.

?
?

?
No...?
The glasses girl is an author...?

This place feels heavy...
...

Like via the Tamagawa Aquaduct, or via a self defense troop garrison,
In a way I could brag to people about

If I'm actually gonna be an author...
I should decide on how I die.

Is setting up a conversation
...
Hibiki-chan...

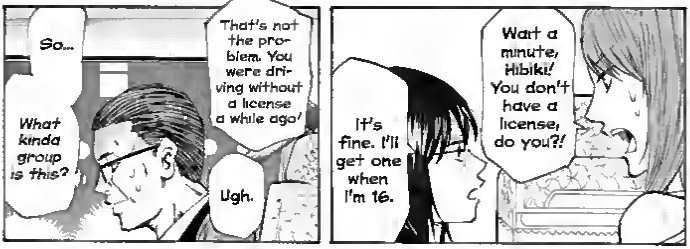
I went there 3 years ago,
but I was shocked at how beautiful the sunlight was as it filtered through the trees
Personally, I'd prefer to be deeeep in the forests of Finland.

I guess...
I like the mountains.
And my friend
Yeah.
Hibiki-chan is my kouhai.
If I'm gonna die, I'd rather pick a beautiful place.

It doesn't really matter for me,
so I'd rather die while viewing a nice scene on top of a high place
95th

then get into an accident while riding my bike on open road.
I wanna get exhausted on the asphalt,
Maybe
I'll take the highway!

Whaaaa, but don't you hate the idea of being run over by all the other cars after you die?
...
My bike will be lying down beside me so everything will be okay.

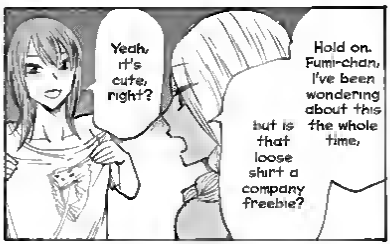

Wait a minute, Hibiki! You don't have a license, do you?!
It's fine. I'll get one when I'm 16.
So...
That's not the problem. You were driving without a license a while ago!
What kinda group is this?
Ugh.

Huh?
Receipt, please.
This is on Shouronsha.
Nnghh.

That's right.
Oh yeah, we didn't get to decide on what we're gonna do tomorrow.
Fumi-chan, you said you'd take us somewhere, right?

Well, there's cliche Harajuku.
...

Ahaha, no, I'm serious.
How about Asakusa?
We'll go to Ausakusa temple, go shopping, and eat dumplings.


Yeah, it's cute, right?
Hold on. Fumi-chan, I've been wondering about this the whole time,
but is that loose shirt a company freebie?

Come on, clothes over temples.
Harajuku?
What the hell're you gonna do in a place that doesn't even have a single temple?

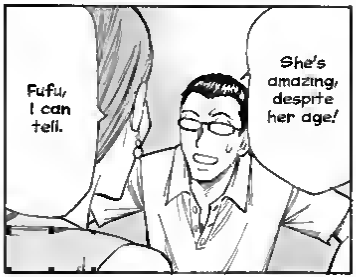
...
Totally.
Lame

What the hell do you think I am?
Ah, Hibiki-chan, if someone hits on you, don't hit them back.
Okay, so let's go look at clothes in Harajuku tomorrow!
Yes, Yoshino-sensei.
So basically, that girl is a finalist in the newcomer awards.
Kijima-san got in a fight with a young girl.
It seems like something big happened before your meeting with Kijima-sensei.

so I'll send you her data this week.
Yoshino-sensei, you're also part of the selection committee,

Akui Hibiki-san, huh...

It even made Kijima-son renounce his own beliefs
Her talents are for real.


Fufu, I can tell.
She's amazing, despite her age!

Huh?

For some reason —
To put it badly, she doesn't know her place
To put it nicely, she's delicate.

But...
she's a really naive girl.

That's right.
Well, it was the first time I saw him praise someone else's work so frankly.

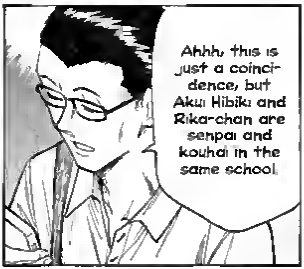
Yoshino Kikyou: 39 years old.
Novelist.
She's just like me.

At age 32, she won the Akutagawa prize.
At age 25, she won the Shirakanba Newcomer award.
Sure.
so why don't we go back as well?
Well, Kijima-sensei went home,

Yes?
Oh yeah, I forgot to ask something important.

Why did Rika come by earlier?

Huh?!
So Rika-san is going to debut under our label,
and they both went to their meetings together.


Ahhh, this is just a coincidence, but Akui Hibiki and Rika-chan are senpai and kouhai in the same school.

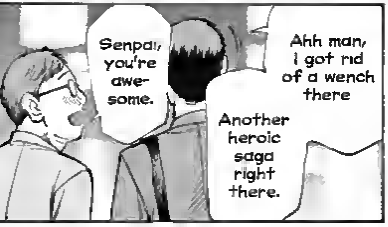
It seems like she can write pretty well.
Rika?! That girl can write?
Whee.

You serious? Senpai, you're awesome.
I laid a little beating on him long ago.
So like, I know that our boss is afraid of me.

Move it, wench!

Whoa!
it usually happens, even though he's my boss.
Yup.

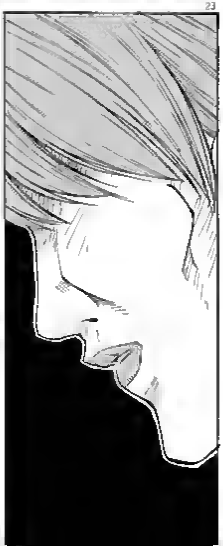
God dammit
I'm sorry, you okay?


Senpai, you're awe-some.
Ahh man, I got rid of a wench there
Another heroic saga right there.

!

Hey, hold...

Wha...



Sensei.. are your legs okay?
don't get so serious over a drunkard.
They're fine.

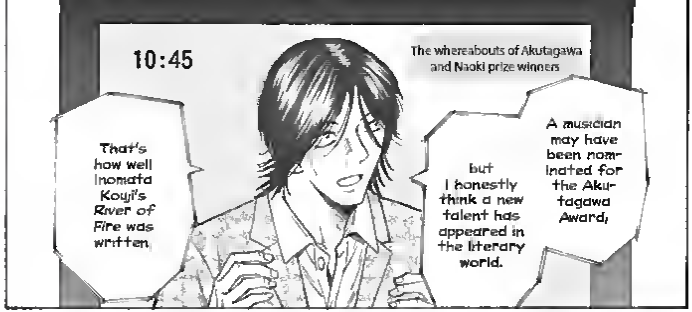
Well now,

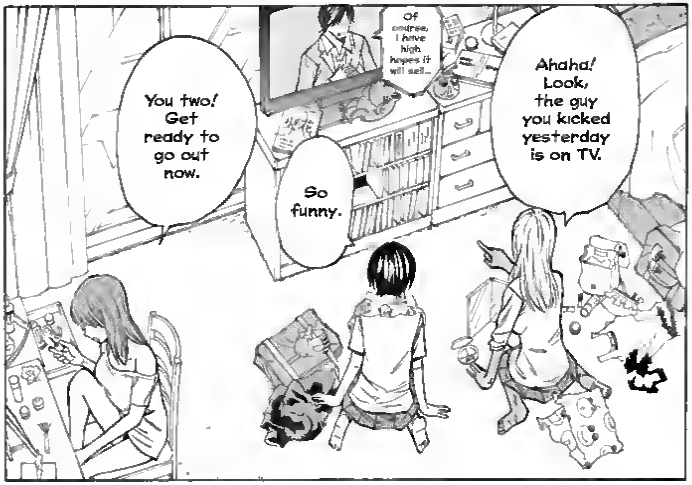
It's been a while since I came to the heart of the city, so I wanted to do some shopping tomorrow.

Okay, it's about time for me to return to the hotel.
Ah.. sensei, did you make reservations?

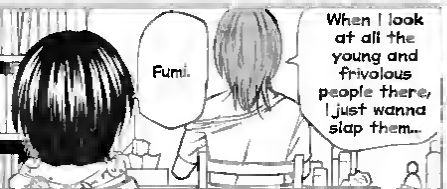
Ah...
Hoh, where are you going?
Ginza? Roppongi?

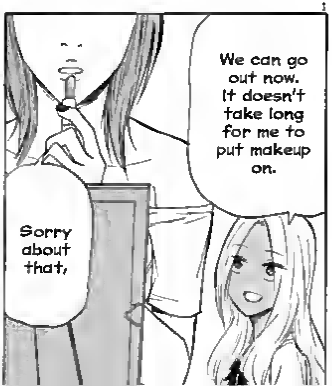
Maybe...
Harajuku...


10:45
The whereabouts of Akutagawa and Naoki prize winners
That's how well Inomata Kouji's River of Fire was written.
but I honestly think a new talent has appeared in the literary world.
A musician may have been nominated for the Akutagawa Award,

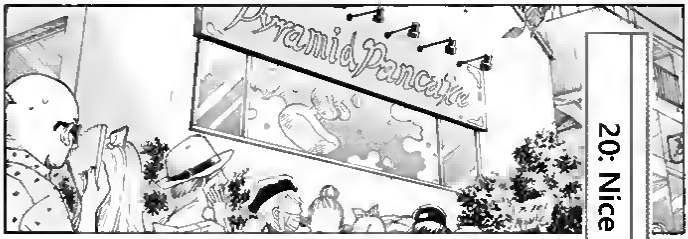

You two! Get ready to go out now.
So funny.
Of course, I have high hopes it will sell...
Ahaha! Look, the guy you kicked yesterday is on TV.

but I don't...
really like Harajuku.


Fumi.
When I look at all the young and frivolous people there, I just wanna slap them...


We can go out now. It doesn't take long for me to put makeup on.
Sorry about that.

Break-fast♪ Break-fast♪
ピーヒョロロ
What're you talking about, Hibiki-chan? We're about ta go to Harajuku, so just eat there.
She wants to eat at the super popular pancake place you were talking about, Rika-chan.

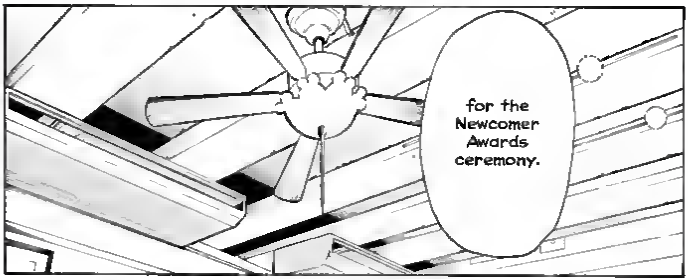


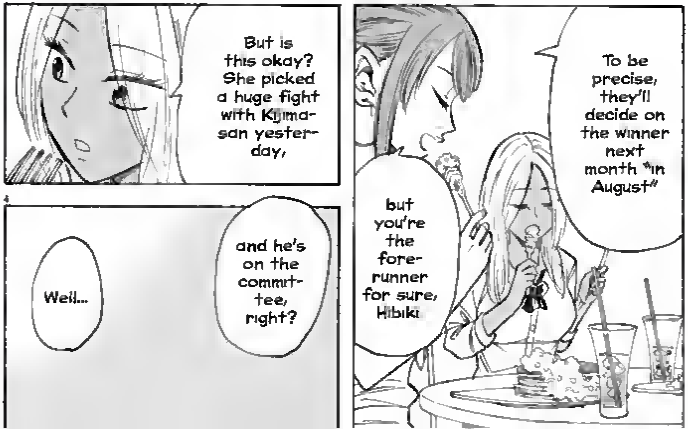
20: Nice to meet you.

but what's with the quantity?
You said you wanted to eat here, Rika-chan.
Yeah.
It is good,
It's good.

I couldn't really calm down yesterday because of all the panic,
but anyways, we had a good meeting.
As for whether or not you can eat the pancakes or whipped cream...
This is what they mean when they say "super popular".
They put all their effort into the appearance so there's a better chance of attracting media attention.
You two,
Crap, I might be at my limit.

Not for a while.
It's July now, so you can go there 2 months from now on, in September.
You're treating me like a wild dog
But, Hibiki, please stop snarling and don't worry about other people
There are a lot of things to reflect on...
When am I gonna go to the editing department next?


for the Newcomer Awards ceremony.


But is this okay? She picked a huge fight with Kijima-san yesterday,
and he's on the committee, right?
Well...
but you're the forerunner for sure, Hibiki
To be precise, they'll decide on the winner next month "in August"

Kijima-san accepted Hibiki's novel,
at worst,
you're just gonna have 1 enemy out of 5.
But if you have 4 people on your side...
Hey, Fumi.
Huh? That's not true. It's actually pretty rare,
normally they meet outside...
Do authors always show up at publishing companies?
Huh? Why?
For reasons.
I was wondering if I could meet an author every-time we have a meeting

もぐもぐ

Don't talk about shortening my life span here, I'm already afraid of the award ceremony.

So Hibiki-chan wants to meet authors.

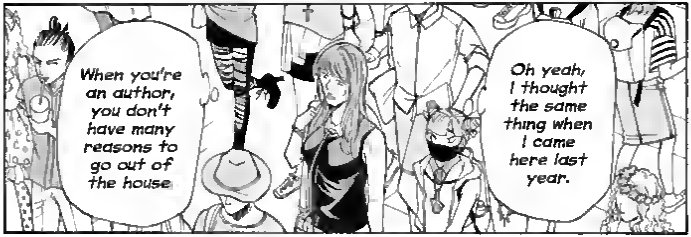
Hibiki... are you serious?

I want to eat crepes.

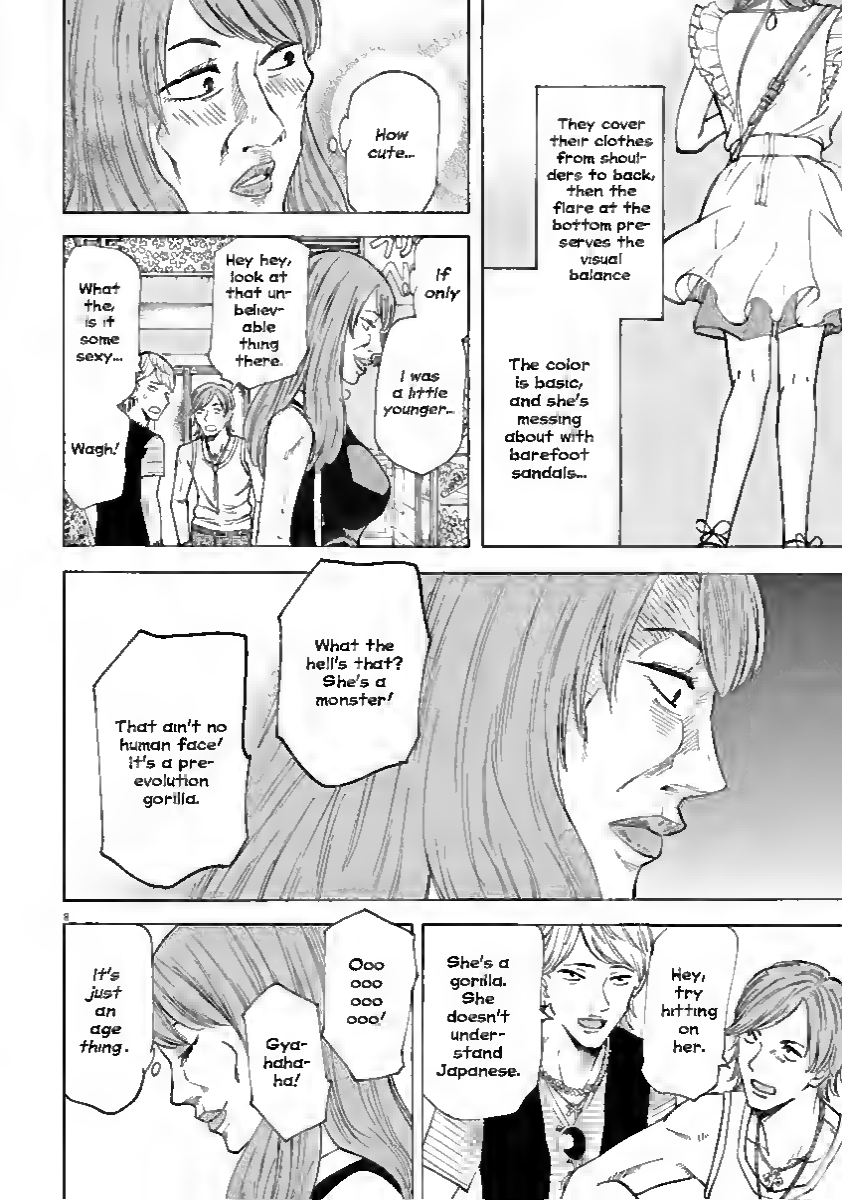
Anyway, after we eat these pancakes, where do you want to go next?

It's been a while since I came to Harajuku, or so I thought.

原宿駅
Maybe more like
a year.


When you're an author, you don't have many reasons to go out of the house.
Oh yeah, I thought the same thing when I came here last year.

I see them a lot...
Frills seem to be in this year...

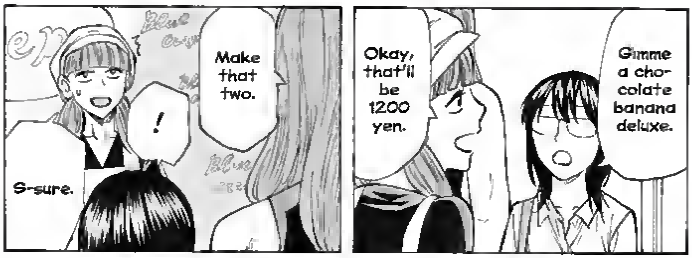

How cute...
They cover their clothes from shoulders to back, then the flare at the bottom preserves the visual balance
The color is basic, and she's messing about with barefoot sandals...
If only
I was a little younger...
Hey hey, look at that unbelievable thing there.
What the, is it some sexy...
Wagh!
What the hell's that? She's a monster!
That ain't no human face! It's a pre-evolution gorilla.
Hey, try hitting on her.
She's a gorilla. She doesn't understand Japanese.
Ooo ooo ooo ooo!
Gya-haha-ha!
It's just an age thing.

Alright! Since I came all the way to Harajuku,
let's start off with some crepes.
Blue Crepes
It's been a while,
so maybe a chocolate banana special..
But I'm on a diet since summer's coming soon.
Hmm.
Lucky,
it's pretty empty.

SALE
30% off!

Uhhh.
Next person, please.

I believe this girl is...

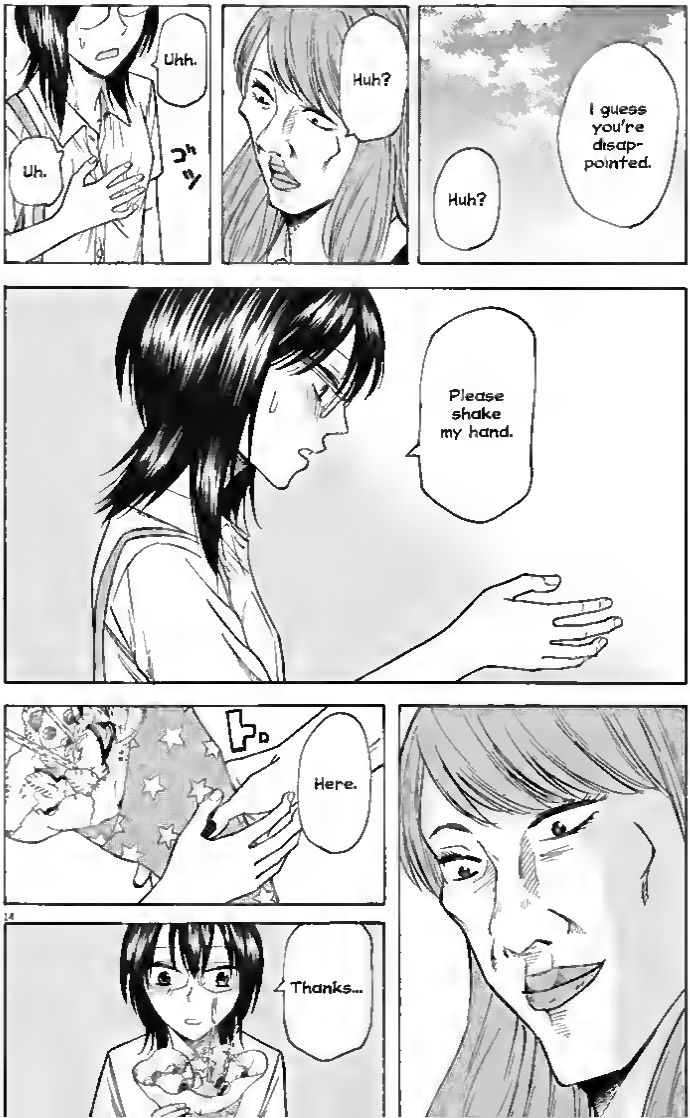

Make that two.
!
S-sure.
Okay, that'll be 1200 yen.
Gimme a chocolate banana deluxe.

We met at Kani-kousen last night. You don't remember?
!
Aku Hibiki-san.
Right?

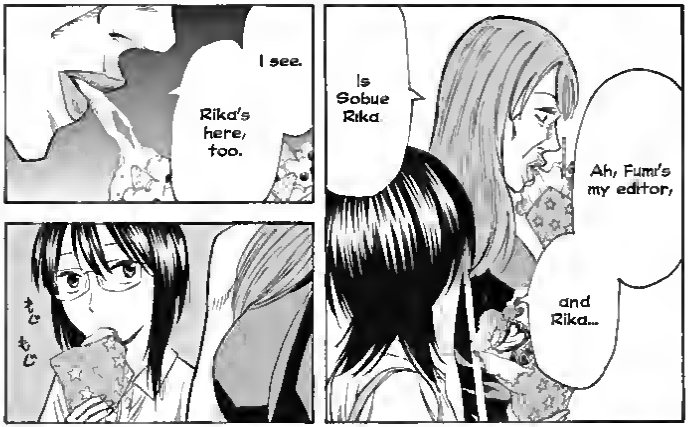
Okay, I'll introduce myself again.
I thought I stood out quite a bit,
but you were only looking at Kiyima-san, huh.
Wha...

Nice to meet you, Akui-san,
I'm Yoshimo Kikyou, a novelist.

We're together
Uhhh the total comes to...
2400 yen.
Thanks for waiting. Two chocolate banana deluxes.
Here you go.
Oh, I'm sorry. You don't know about me?
I do.
I can't take food from someone I don't know...
I like your novels,
but I couldn't tell if it was you because I've never seen your photo
That's because I've never made my face public...

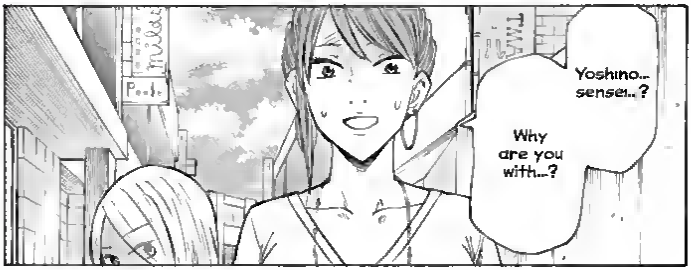

Uhh.
Uh.
コトリ
Huh?
I guess you're disappointed.
Huh?
Please shake my hand.
トン
Here.
Thanks...

Akuri-san, are you here alone?
No.
I'm with Rika and Fumi.


Ah, Fumi's my editor,
and Rika...
Is Sobue Rika
I see.
Rika's here, too.
もぐもぐ

Over there
You're finally back.
You're actually eating a crepe...
You sure can eat after those pancakes.

Oh dear, Yoshino-sensei, I'm so sorry about Hibi...
Hello, Handai-san
I came across Yoshi-no-san
She bought me a crepe.


Yoshino-sensei..?
Why are you with...?

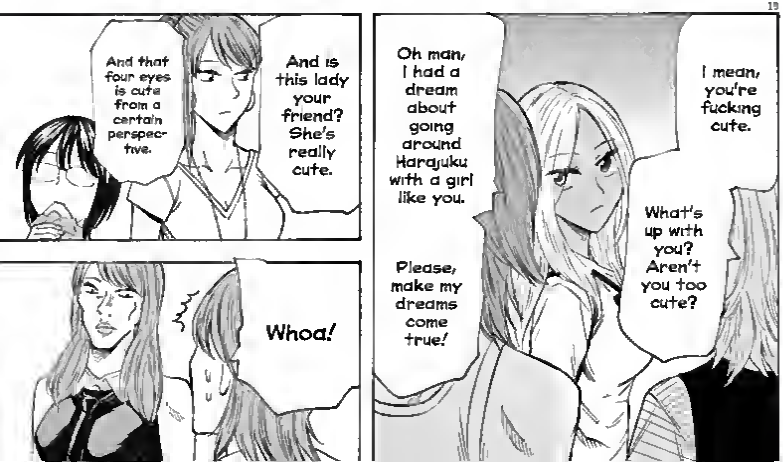
I met her by the crepe vendor by chance.
Maybe this girl emits some weird waves.
Why is Yoshino-sensei here?
It's just one committee member after another.
I'm so sorry about getting in the way of your meal with Kijima-sensei last night!

Uhh... You didn't do anything rude now, did you?
What the hell do you think I am?!
She just greeted me.
She's quite a polite child.
IS THAT SO..?
In any case, maybe there won't be any problems, right?
Yoshino-sensei is a really rare entity among authors.

Hello there, Yoshino-san.

I heard that you're going to debut, Rika-chan. Is that right?
I was so surprised. I mean, I've never sensed any intelligence in your head whenever I talked with you.
We meet in the most unusual places. A place like Harajuku doesn't suit you at all.
You should seriously think about your face and your age a little more. Or did you mistake this place for a duck nest?
Oh, 39,
you're a hag.
I'm 39
Ahaha, I mean, whenever I talk with you, it's like I'm nursing someone
I can't believe you can write novels when you don't know what 'octogenarian' means.
You're almost an octogenarian, right?
You really were brought up wrong...
I pity you...
Uhh...
You too.
Go away.

Hibiki-chan, you remember I'm your senpai here, right?
もぐもぐもぐ
Rika, you aren't addressing your elders with respect.
She's a good person.
For now.
Do you two know each other?
Not at all, who the fuck are you?
Oh maaan, what's with you? You're so damn cuuute.
Hey hey hey, goooot a mimuuute?


And that four eyes is cute from a certain perspective.
And is this lady your friend? She's really cute.
Whoa!
Oh man, I had a dream about going around Harajuku with a girl like you.
Please, make my dreams come true!
I mean, you're fucking cute.
What's up with you? Aren't you too cute?

Oh?
Hey hey, is the gorilla your friend?
I mean, it just won't work out between us.
Get the hell out before I call the cops.
No way in hell There's nobody in the world as cute as you
If I'm getting hit on, look the other way
...
Hey...
Tch.
Onto the next one.
Kyah.
Don't get full of yourself, hag! We weren't serious about you either.

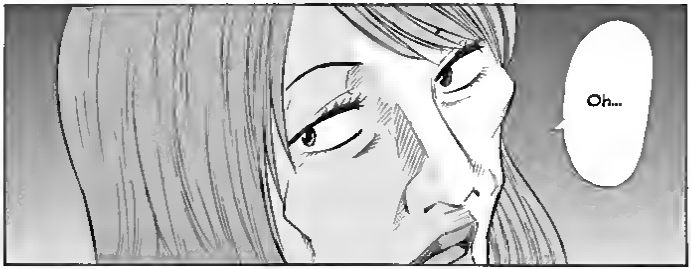
Whoa!
Whoop.

Aaah?!
Why not play with your big sister here?
Leave the brat alone.

Where're you going dammit!
Lemme go, gorilla.
Agh...
H-hey...
I'll take you to a secret pancake place.

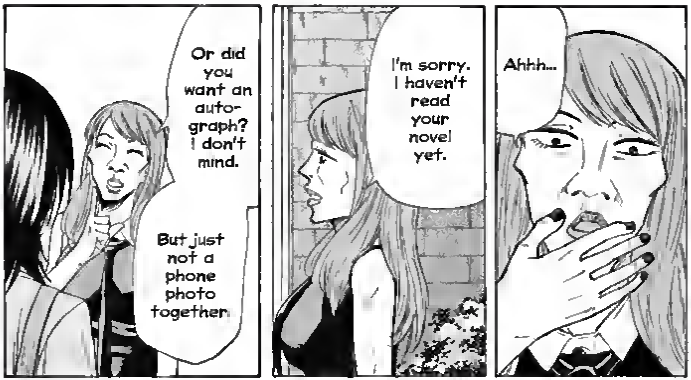
Where's Hibiki..?
Oh.
Uh... er
you sure?
Fumi-chan, let's go too.
Gh...
Seriously, lemme go.
Ow... seriou...
What?
You...
Okay then.
Whoa.
Fuck...
Go die!
Bye byee.

Okay then.


Oh...

I had some-thing I wanted to ask.

Yeah.
Aku-san,
huh? Did you follow me?


Ahhh...
I'm sorry. I haven't read your novel yet.
Or did you want an autograph? I don't mind.
But just not a phone photo together.

Why did you become an author?

Why did you become an author?
21: My dream.

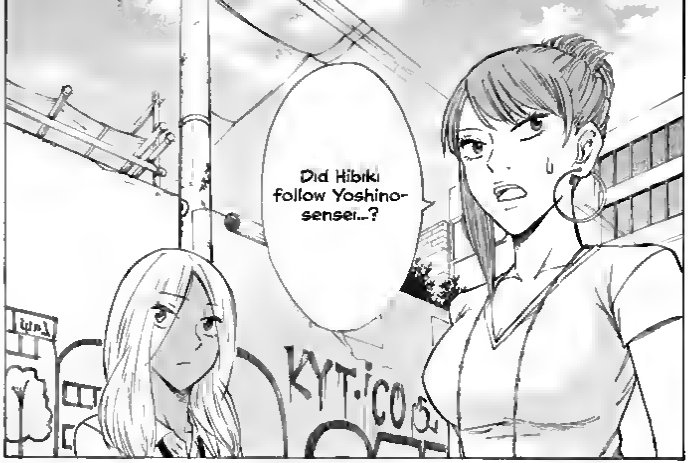
Uh.
Oh yeah, if you don't mind, do you want to come along with me?
Then you might understand.

I don't think you can understand, even if I explain it in words.

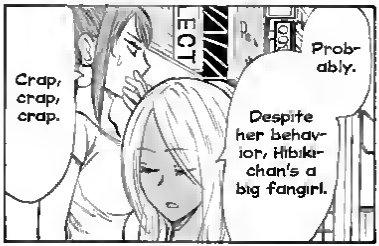
Thanks...
Oh, it's nothing.

Sure...

21: My dream.


Did Hibiki follow Yoshino-sensei...?

What's she gonna do next...?


Crap, crap, crap.
Probably.
Despite her behavior, Hibiki-chan's a big fangirl.

More importantly, we're in Harajuku.

Y-yeah...
Look at clothes. Clothes.
Let's go fool around

It'll be fine.
The old lady's a really nice person, so they won't get into any fights.

So cuuuute.
But I wanna do something about the hair too.
Oh, wow, ma'am. It suits you really well.
The glasses really do the trick.
Maybe we have some. I'll bring them over.
Do you have wigs here?

What's your plan here?

Not at all

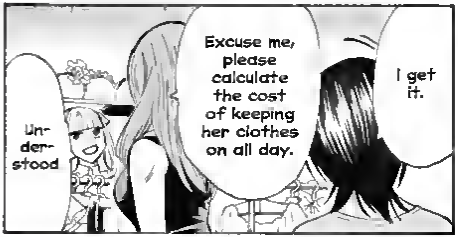
That's why I became an author.

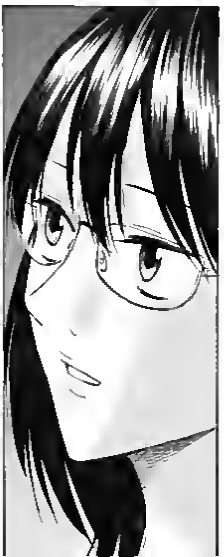
You get it?
Not at all.

Akur-san, how is it? Do you think it suits me?

You're a finalist for the newcomer award now.
Then come with me a little longer.

I want to answer you sincerely.
but, as your senpai in the novel industry,
I don't know why you're interested in the reason why I became an author,


Understood
Excuse me, please calculate the cost of keeping her clothes on all day.
I get it.



Wha..?

PRESILA
ウィッグ専門店
So cute!
You're like a princess!

Wooow, she's so cuuute.
That's Harajuku for you.
Hey hey, look at that goth loli.
No, no not at all!
You really are cute!
Are you making fun of me?
But you can only wear that in Harajuku, right?
I wanna try wearing that once too.
See, they're saying it too.
Gorilla face there can actually walk together with that girl.
Maybe she actually is a gorilla
It's like the princess is taking a gorilla out for a walk.
I mean, she stands out too much because of what's next to her.
!
You see,
ガッ
Uh...
Bior

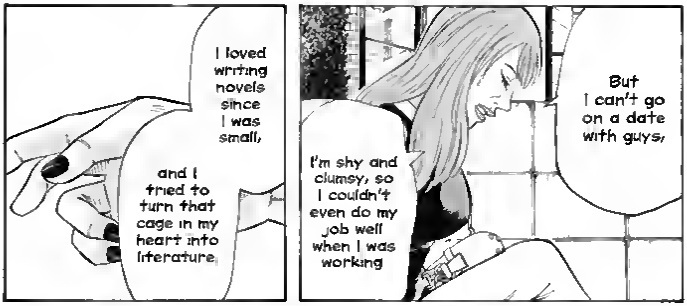
I wanted to be like you.

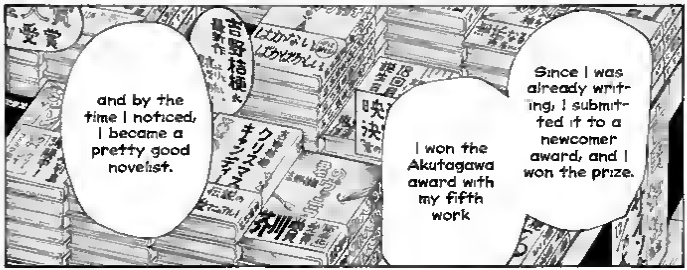
leave my part time job, support the household,
and have kids..

I'd get married,
do the house work,

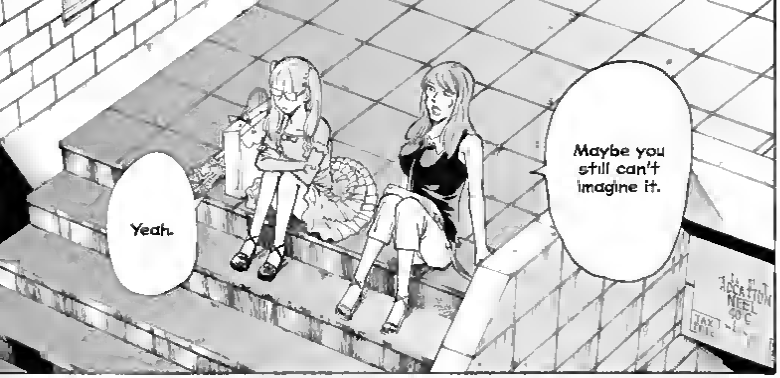
If I wore cute clothes,
then maybe I could get everyone to see that I'm cute.

My dream was to be a bride.

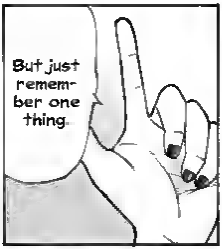

I loved writing novels since I was small,
and I tried to turn that cage in my heart into literature.
But I can't go on a date with guys,
I'm shy and clumsy, so I couldn't even do my job well when I was working


and by the time I noticed, I became a pretty good novelist.
I won the Akutagawa award with my fifth work
Since I was already writing, I submitted it to a newcomer award, and I won the prize.

Yes.
So you became a writer because you couldn't get married?

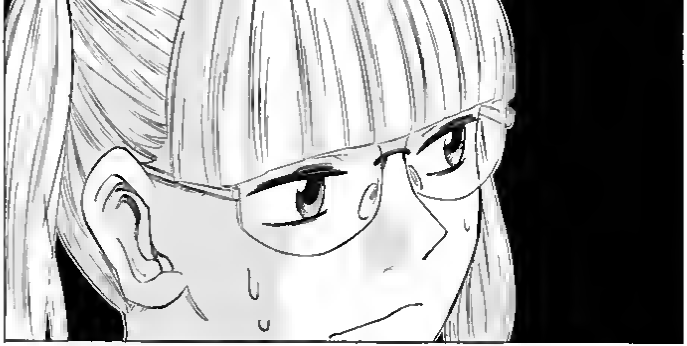

Maybe you still can't imagine it.
Yeah.

The difference between you and me is that you're cute.


But just remember one thing.

You're still 15, after all...

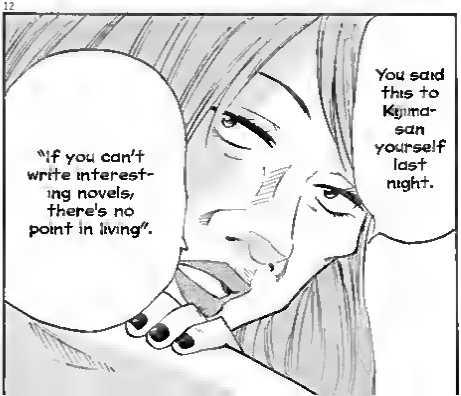
You can get married and create a happy family.
You have another choice aside from being a novelist.



Uhhh...
It's not like I'm planning on getting married...

Uh....er.

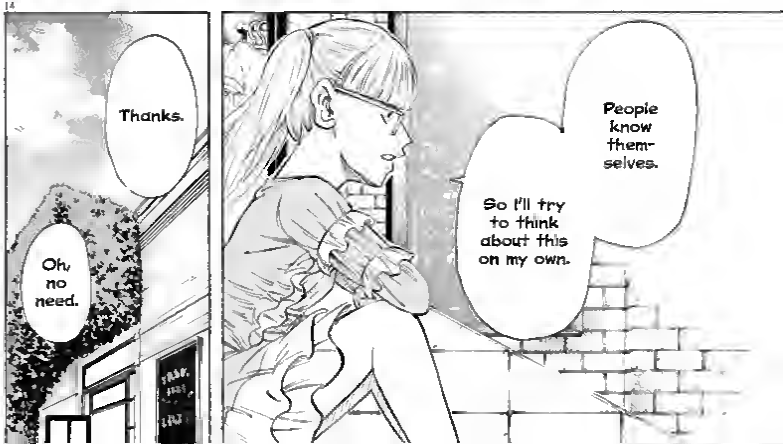
Maybe it's too hard for you to understand, Akui-san.
And I don't really know much,
but can't you be a novelist and get married at the same time?

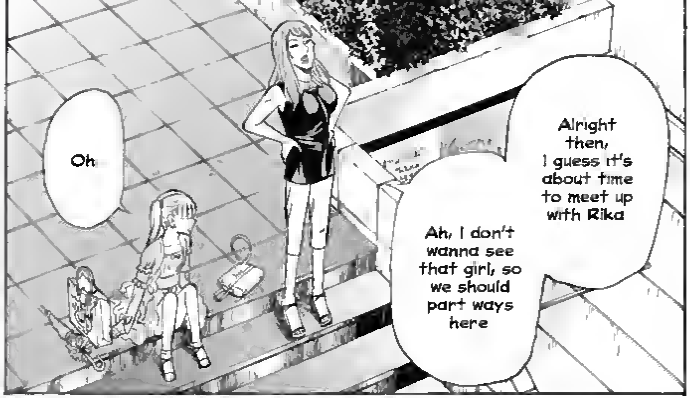

"If you can't write interesting novels, there's no point in living".
You said this to Kyima-san yourself last night.

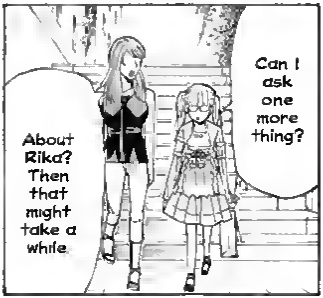
Why?

Do you think that you can have a happy family
while going all in on your novels?
I see...
But that's still for the future.
Kijima-san gave you high praise,
but in reality, we still don't know if you can win the award or not...
Or you could meet a guy who'd say "My purpose in life is to support you, Akui-san!"
Hmm.

In the end, I became a novelist because "that's all I can do".
Was that of any use to you?
Yeah.
Every-thing aside, it's just a twisted relation-ship.
I figured as much.
Not really.

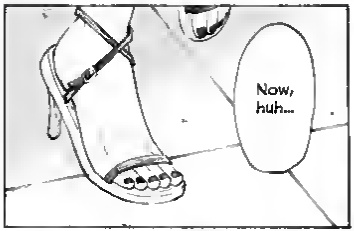

Thanks.
Oh, no need.
People know them-selves.
So I'll try to think about this on my own.


Oh
Ah, I don't wanna see that girl, so we should part ways here
Alright then, I guess it's about time to meet up with Rika

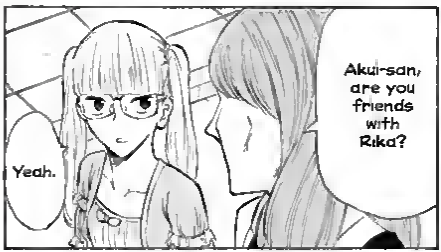

About Rika? Then that might take a while
Can I ask one more thing?

Thanks ...?
I'll give you those clothes as a gift
Yeah, to celebrate you being a finalist.

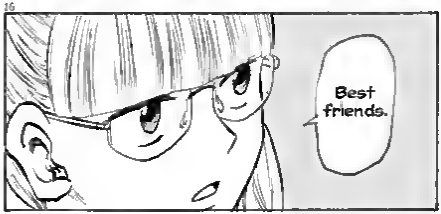
Do you still want to get married and not write novels, Yoshino?


Now, huh...

And I have my fans.
And I won a lot of awards.
I never thought my own novels would garner so much praise.
I'm honestly really satisfied now.

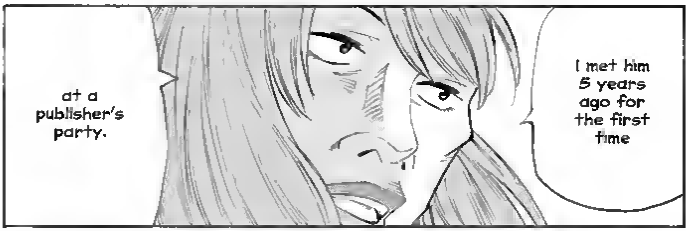

Aku-san, are you friends with Rika?
Yeah.

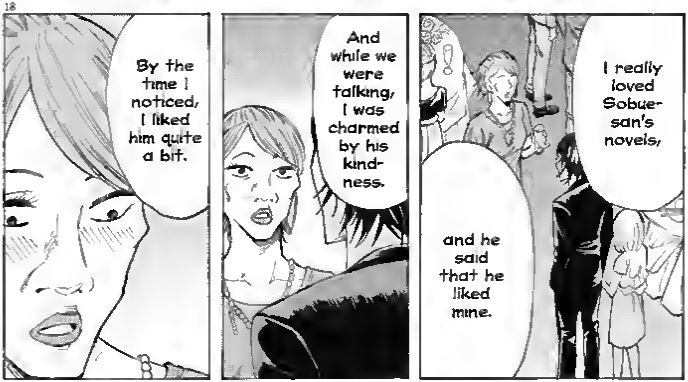
And I won the Akutagawa...

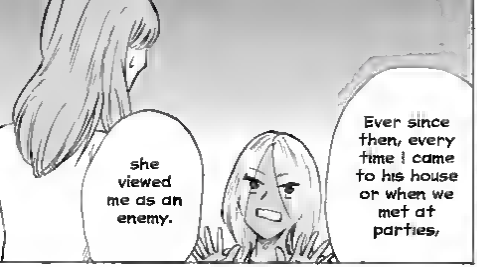

Best friends.

please don't rely on her too much.
Uhh,
and yet, she's just
a delicate 16 year old girl,
Rika...
is a smart girl,
she can think just like an adult despite being 16,
that wasn't really an answer to my question.
Which is why
I personally
love her.
?
17
Do you hate Rika, Yoshino?
That girl hates me.

See,
I like Sobue Akihito-san.

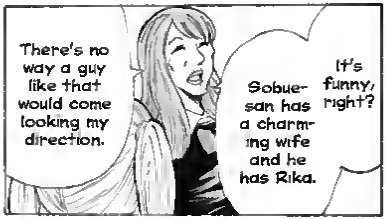

I met him 5 years ago for the first time
at a publisher's party.

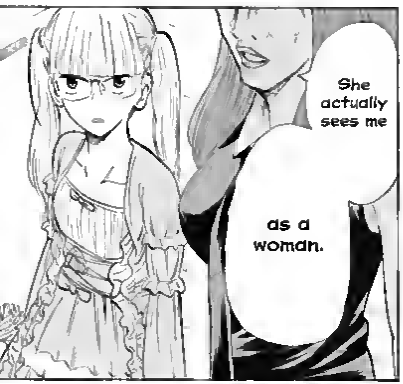

18
I really loved Sobue-san's novels,
and he said that he liked mine.
And while we were talking, I was charmed by his kindness.
By the time I noticed, I liked him quite a bit.


she viewed me as an enemy.
Ever since then, every time I came to his house or when we met at parties,

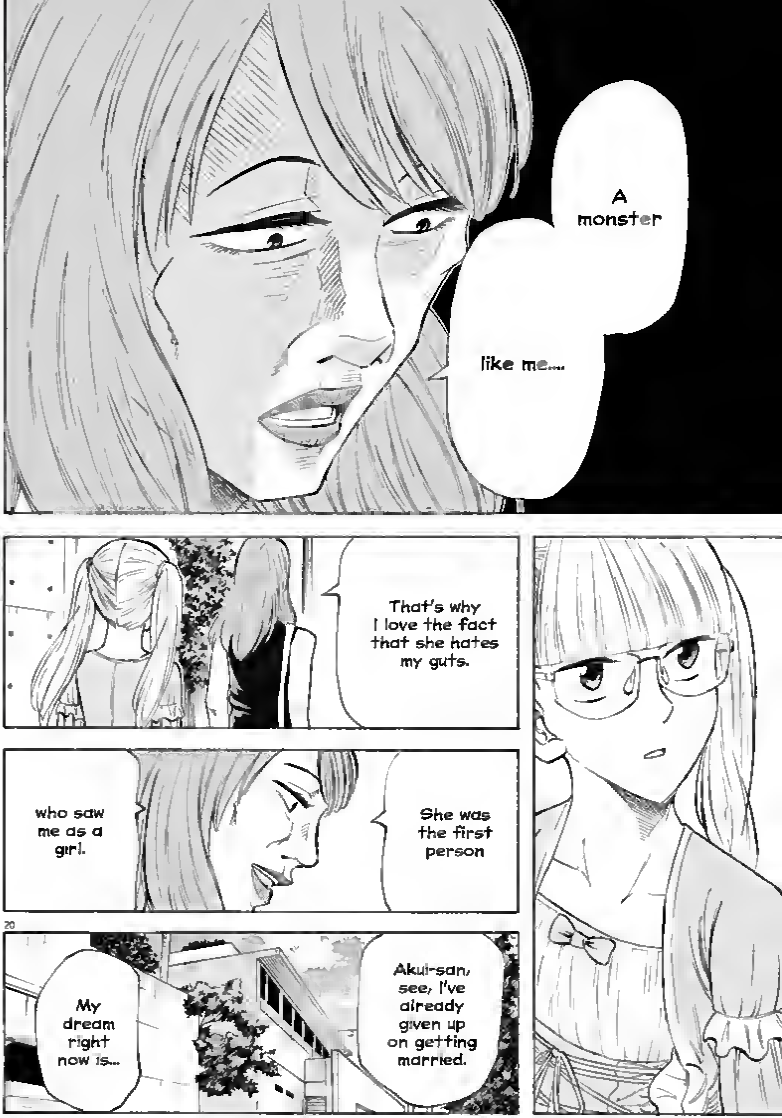
At that moment, Sobue-san's daughter, a grade school girl who stood next to him,
just kept glaring at me.

she thinks that I might take him away.
I honestly believe

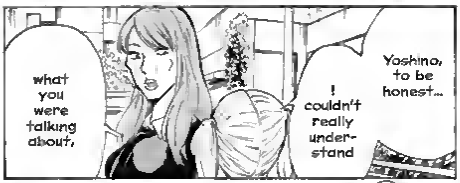

There's no way a guy like that would come looking my direction.
Sobue-san has a charming wife and he has Rika.
It's funny, right?


She actually sees me
as a woman.

Yet Rika
thinks I might take her papa away.

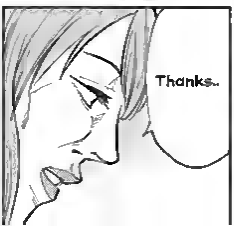

A monster like me...
That's why I love the fact that she hates my guts.
She was the first person who saw me as a girl.
Akui-san, see, I've already given up on getting married.
My dream right now is...

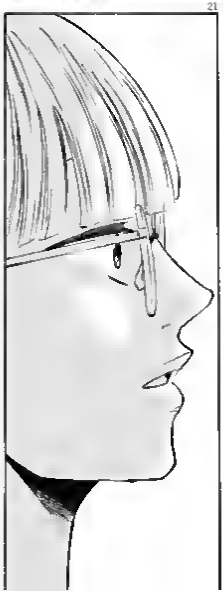
To become a bride
if I ever get reborn.


what you were talking about.
I couldn't really understand
Yoshino, to be honest...

I think you're cute as you are now.
but

Which is why

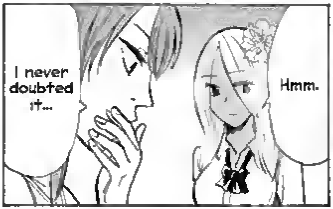

Thanks..

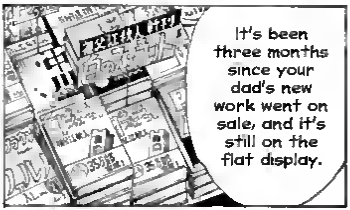


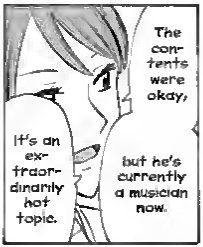
if you ever do get reborn,
come and be my bride.

If you think I'm worth it...

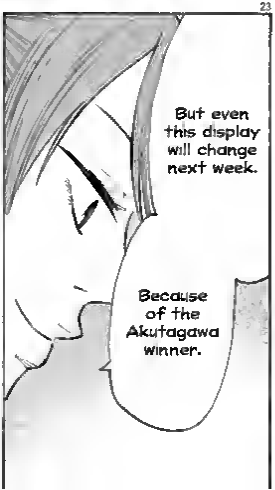
Rika-chan, look, look.
BOOK
Fumi-chan, we came all the way to Harajuku. We didn't have to come to a bookstore.

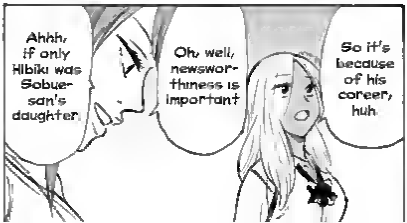

I never doubted it...
Hmm.


It's been three months since your dad's new work went on sale, and it's still on the flat display.


The contents were okay,
It's an extraordinarily hot topic.
but he's currently a musician now.

Is it next week already?
Inomata-san's *River of Fire* has a lot of potential.

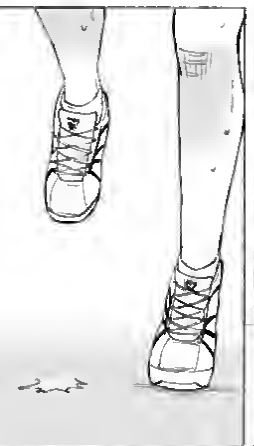

But even this display will change next week.
Because of the Akutagawa winner.

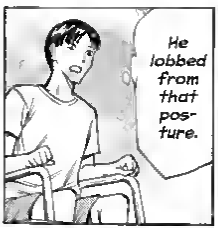

Ahhh, if only Hibiki was Sobue-san's daughter.
Oh well, newsworthiness is important
So it's because of his career, huh

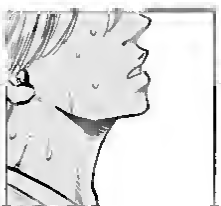
Hibiki-chan would be my little sis.
Sounds nice.
Whoops.

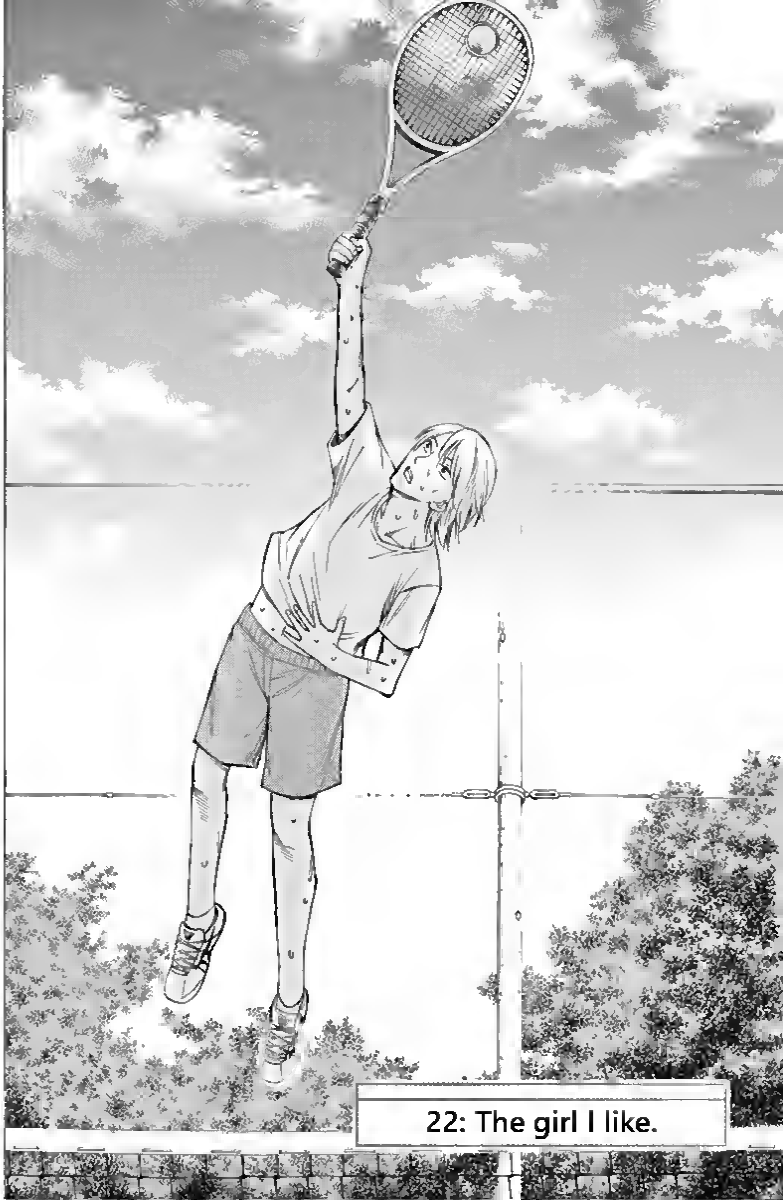
Looks like you disciplined your heart there..
It's fun when you don't get a single day of internal peace.

22: The girl I like.

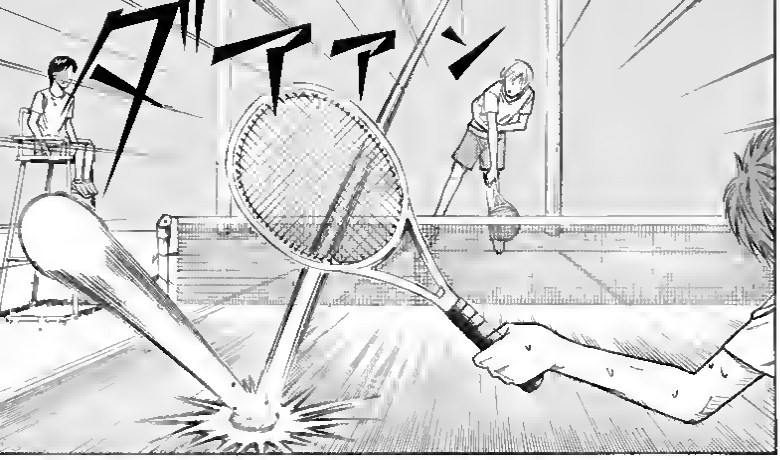


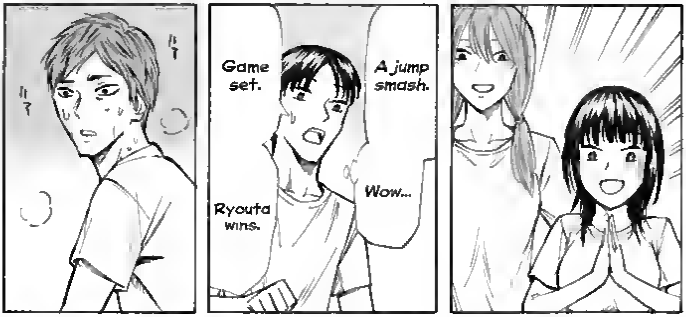




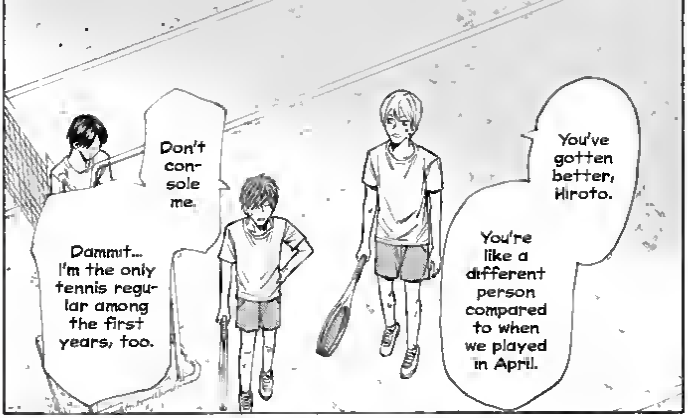


22: The girl I like.

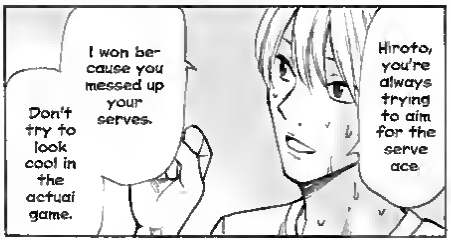

ダアアン


ハ？
ハ？
Game set.
Ryouta wins.
A jump smash.
Wow...

Whew.

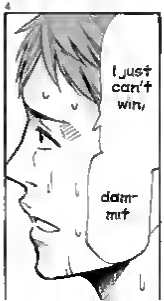

Don't console me.
Dammit... I'm the only tennis regular among the first years, too.
You've gotten better, Hiroto.
You're like a different person compared to when we played in April.

Tch...


I won because you messed up your serves.
Don't try to look cool in the actual game.
Hiroto, you're always trying to aim for the serve ace.

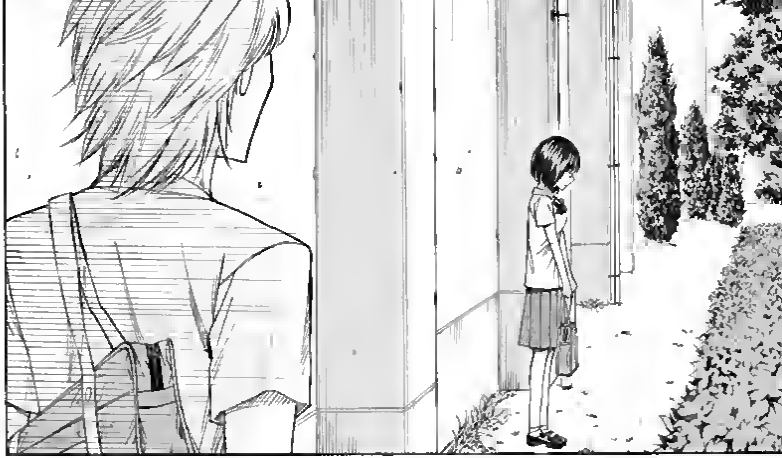
Ryouta.

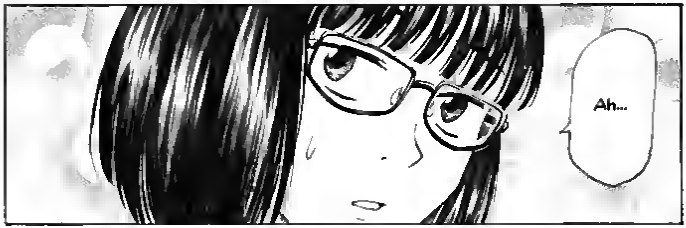
Go to the nationals.
ゴッ
Yeah.


I just can't win,
dammit

Suup

1 - 3
Hibiki, head to the club room first.
I got some stuff to do.
Got it.




Ah...

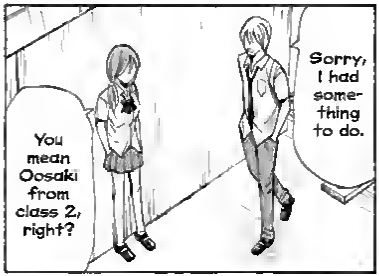
You're Oosaki-san from class 2?
Yeah uhh...
Sorry for just calling you out.
No, I don't really mind
I read your letter.
You said you had something to say?
Yeah...
Uhh..

Ahh!
My handkerchief.
Here...
Wha...
I saw you drop it yesterday, Tsubaki-kun...
I see. I dropped it
I'm slow... and I missed my chance to call...
But uhh...
I wanted to give it to you right there...
Uhhh
...
Tsubaki-kun..
I'm glad I could make you happy...
No.
And you handed it back.
That helps a lot, thanks.

So
you have a girl-friend...
Yeah.
This is a present from my girl-friend.
I'm glad you found it.
I see...
Sorry...
Yeah..
I'm really
thankful.

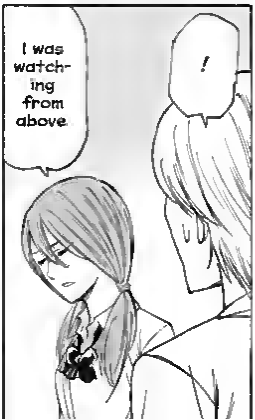
Yeah...

Sorry for the wait.


Sorry, I had something to do.
You mean Oosaki from class 2, right?

You're late.

What did she want?
Well, she picked up my handkerchief.


I was watching from above
!

Anyways,
Hmmm

wanna talk?

...
So like,
uhhh

True that.

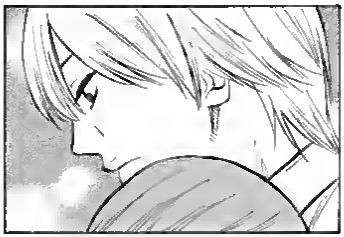
So like,
we get along really well.
And it's fun to talk to you, Ryouta...

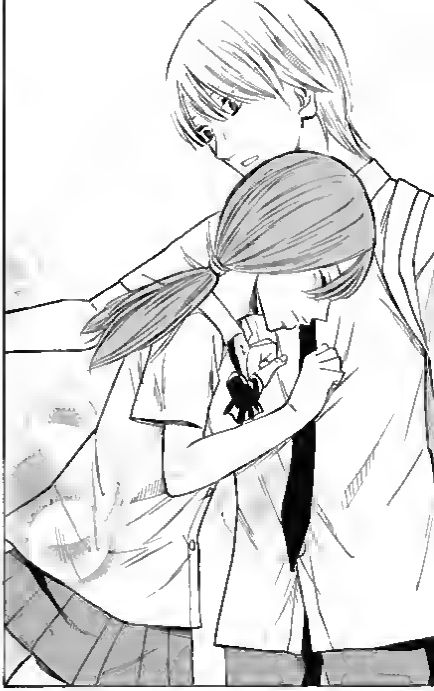
go out with me

Liar!
I have a girl-friend
Sorry.
You're talking about Akui, right?
You guys aren't dating!
Uh...
Why Akui? She doesn't talk to anybody.
And she's a loner in class.
So you know...
I'm so much better than-
You have nobody now, right? Then there's no problem.
I do!
I've been watching you since forever!

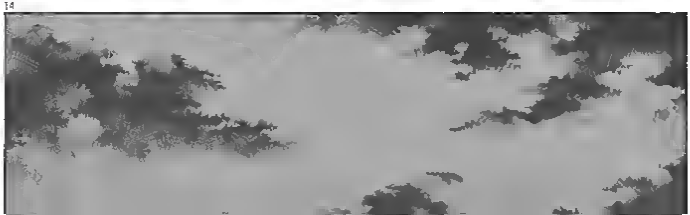
ドン
13
That's unfair...
When you say that,
I can't say anything.
Sorry...
Don't say any more.
Akemi,
I don't wanna hate you now.

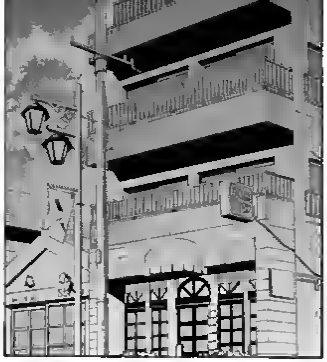
Don't apologize.
Dummy...

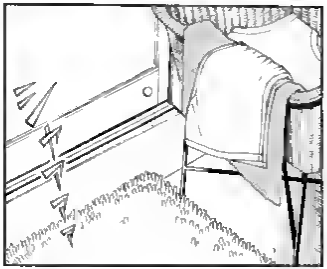


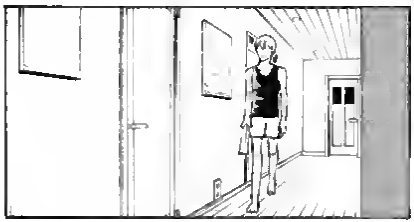


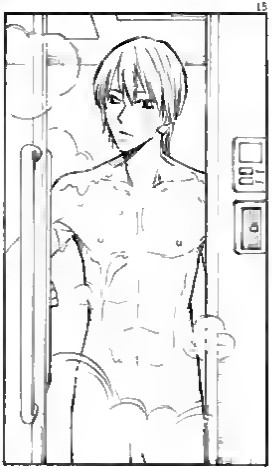
Sorry...
I can't really hug you...

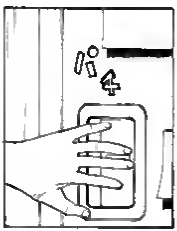


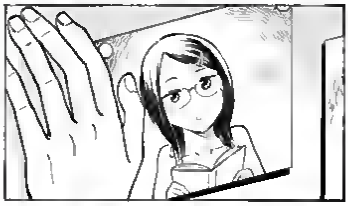






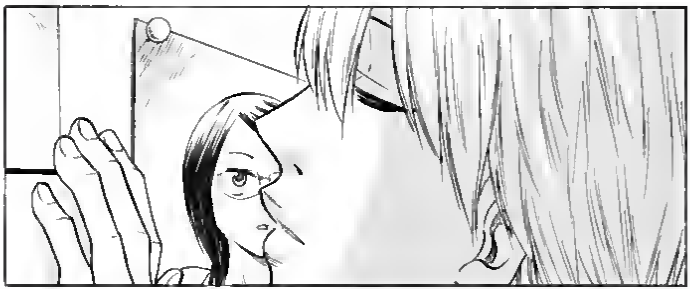






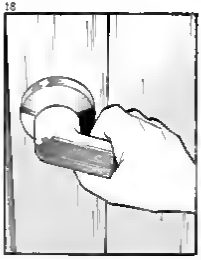
I'll go with 8 year old Hibiki today.

Good night, Hibiki.



Morning Hii-chan.
Sorry, the guy's still sleeping. Go wake him up.
Ryoutarou.

18

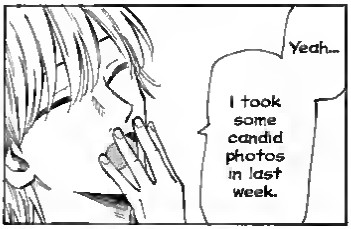


Sure.

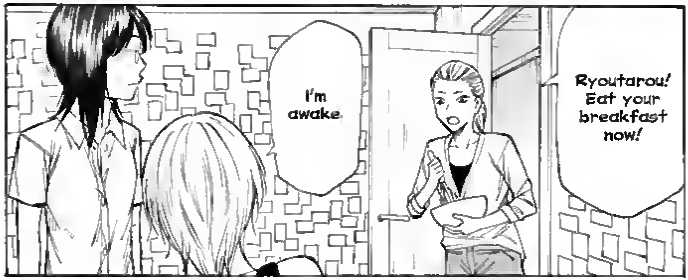
There are more photos here, and I don't remember you taking some of them.
Agh...
Morning Hibiki.

Guggh

But Hibiki, when I tell you that I'm taking one, you always end up doing that peace sign.
You can take pictures,
but just give me a heads up before you do.


Yeah...
I took some candid photos in last week.

AAGHH

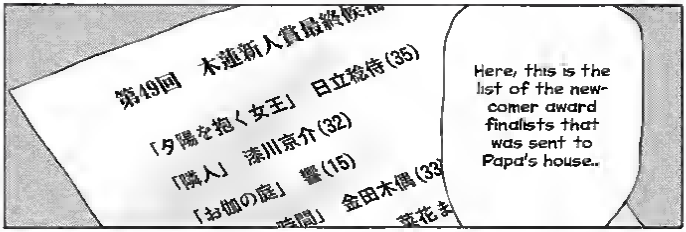

Ryoutarou! Eat your breakfast now!
I'm awake.

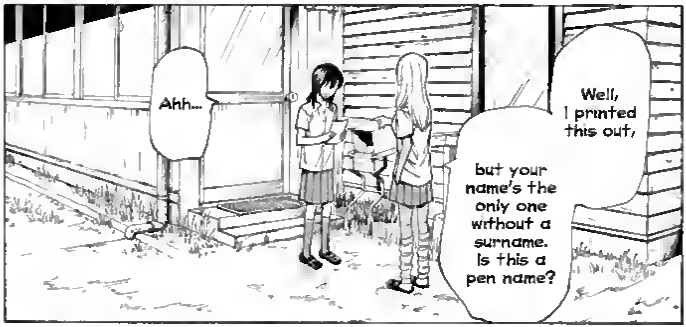
Why did I raise such a god damn pervert?
I know.
Come on, it's natural for a guy to stick photos of the girl he likes on the wall!
HAAH

But yeah...
This room just gives me the creeps every time I come in...

I'm sorry for all his troubles, Hii-chan.
Kay.
I'm getting changed! Get the hell out!

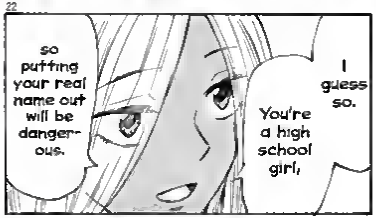
Hibiki-chan, youuu goooт a minute?
Okay then.
We're gonna have some secret girl talk,
so just come over.
21


第49回　木蓮新人賞最終候補
「夕陽を抱く女王」　日立稔侍(35)
「隣人」　漆川京介(32)
「お伽の庭」　響(15)
Here, this is the list of the newcomer award finalists that was sent to Papa's house..


Ahh...
Well, I printed this out,
but your name's the only one without a surname. Is this a pen name?

Hmm.
I told her anything will work and that's how it happened.

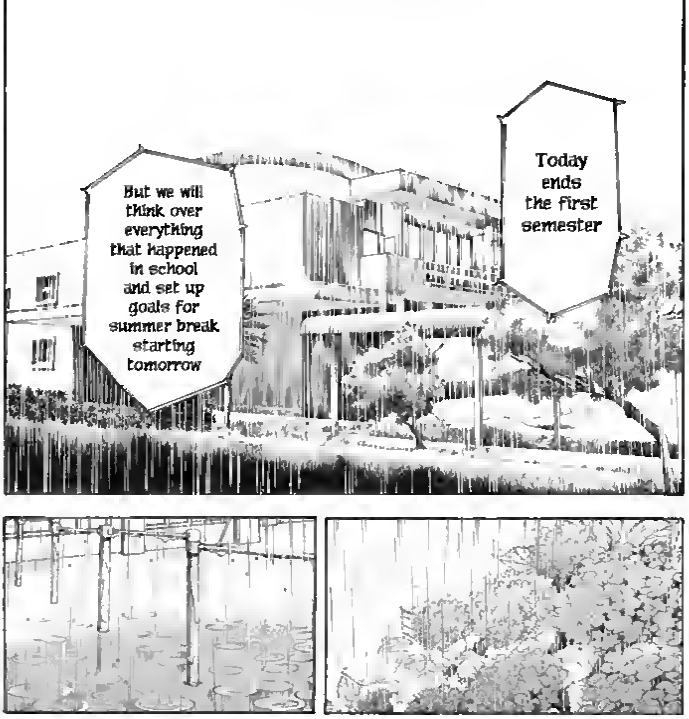
Fumi recommended it during our meeting last week.
She said that it's better for me to leave my real name out since I'm 15.


22
so putting your real name out will be dangerous.
You're a high school girl,
I guess so.

Mental preparations to become an author.
So like, what did you talk about with the old lady last week at Harajuku?
Figured
Still can't see myself as one.
Was it a good talk?
23
The question of whether you have talent or not..
probably gets settled when you're 15 or 16
it's not like every single author bets their life on their works
and have dramatic moments all the time.
But as for whether you can become an author or not..

The results of the newcomer award will come out next month.

23: August 12


Today ends the first semester
But we will think over everything that happened in school and set up goals for summer break starting tomorrow

2

We'll lodge together over summer break!

響～小説家になる方法～3

A training camp for the lit club...?
Are we just staying in school to read?
Dammit
We have a summer house in Shounan
We'll go to the beach, play with fireworks, and play games
We're gonna have a fun time
I say that, but we spend summer break making our club journal
I'm a bit busy this year, so I don't have time to do any club activities
Having said that, if we don't do anything over summer break, the school will get mad at us
We'll have a 2 night thing

みかん畑でうか
Whoop
Hibiki-chan, put this in the 'interesting shelf' on the right side
Maaan, you gotta let me put this in the 'interesting part'
Left. Cuz it's not
Summer break.
Training camp
Shounan summer house, huh
That's awesome!
It will be the first time I'm going to the beach with friends
That's great! That's so youthful

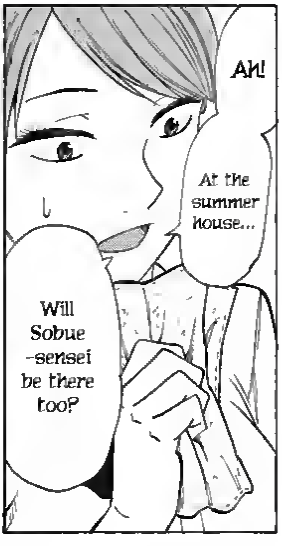
Agh
Cut the...
Whaaaaa, let's all go togeeetherr
It's lame
I'll pass
I told you to fucking let go!
...No

Who's really the senpai here
My loss then
You really don't listen to anyone, Hibiki-chan

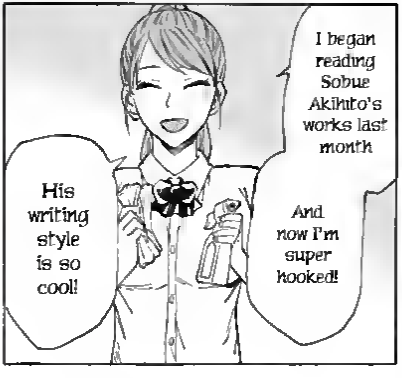
Awwww

U... uhh

Huh?

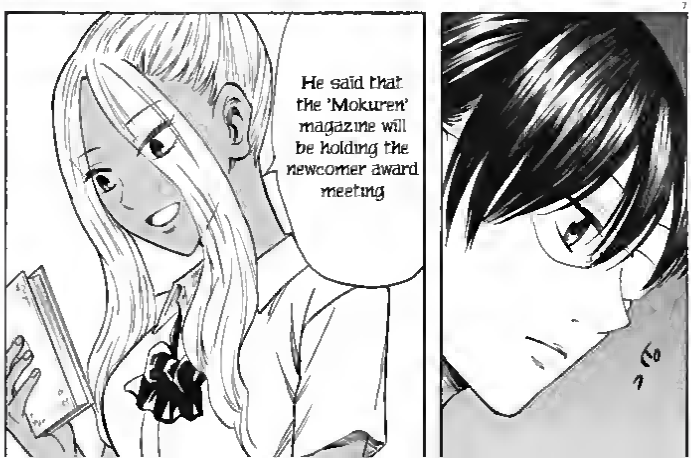

Ah!
At the summer house...
Will Sobue-sensei be there too?

6

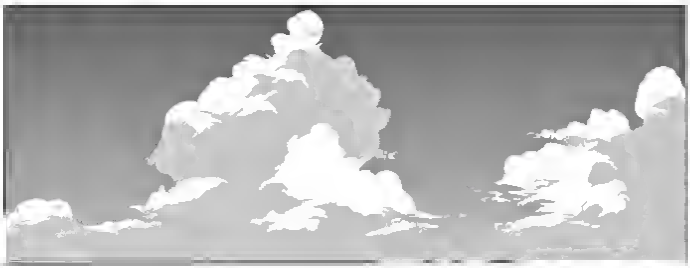

I began reading Sobue Akihito's works last month
And now I'm super hooked!
His writing style is so cool!

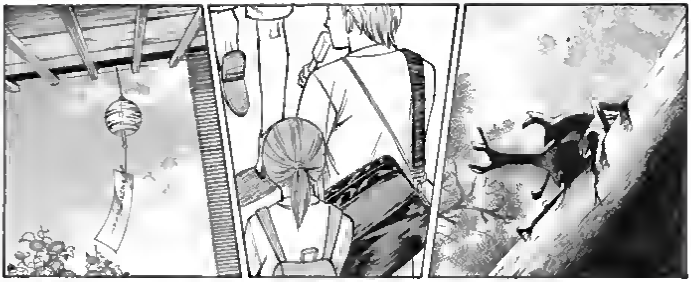
Sorry, but papa won't be there
I mean, he only let me use the place under the condition that he won't go at all
Rika-san, he's your father, right?
That's amaaazing. It's like you're from a different world
Yeah, seriously

We'll go on August 12
Papa's going to Tokyo that day


He said that the 'Mokuren' magazine will be holding the newcomer award meeting

Hoh...
I only have a school swimsuit with me
So maybe I should really do some shopping for good clothes
Oh yeah, I wanna see you in a bikini, Kayo-chan
Bi-
Oh, no... I'm still 15...
Dammit...
5
5
6
6

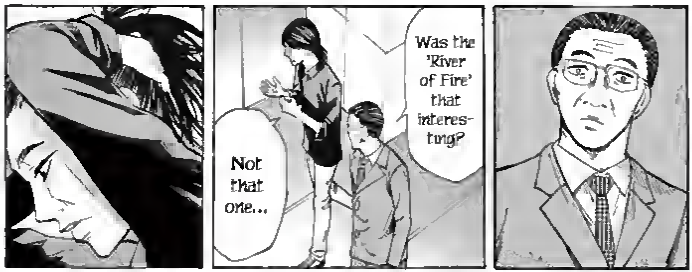




'River of fire' is truly amazing

It's still going after selling 1.5 million copies
Only one month has passed after it won the Akutagawa prize
And it's still selling out in bookstores
A real deal which I've never seen before will come out
So I'm worried about being completely wrong
Well, it's lonesome since the 'River of Fire' is just a boom
I'd be happy if it gave more attention to the literary world
I'm already 50 years old too

Then desire to go on a rampage
I'll feel like everything I wrote up to now was nothing but a misunder-standing


Was the 'River of Fire' that interes-ting?
Not that one...

'The fairytale garden'

August 12
The Mokuren Newcomer Award selection meeting
Hey, there

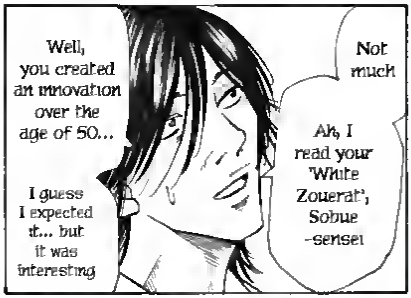
12

Good work out there, Sobue -sensei

Oh? What's up, Yoshimo -san?
Long time no see, Sobue -san
What's up...
I'm on the selection committee, so of course I would be here
No, that's not what I'm talking about
You've gotten a lot cuter since I last saw you
I was just wondering what happened

Oh!
Stop saying stupid things!
Ahaha, no I'm serious here
And those frilly clothes suit you

...hello there
Sup


Well, you created an innovation over the age of 50...
I guess I expected it... but it was interesting
Not much
Ah, I read your 'White Zouerat', Sobue -sensei

It's been a while, Kiji-macchi!
How've you been doing as of late?

14

...uh

Is it interesting?

Naaah, don't worry about me
Seriously? That makes me happy
Aaah, sorry, I haven't read your new work yet
No, no

So? Did you drop a bomb?
Well, if your new work is interesting
I just wanted to give it a read
...It's just
Unacceptable
15
Tell me when you write something interesting
I'm looking forward to it
I see

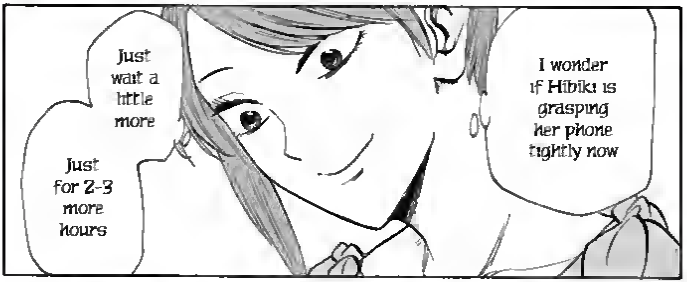
Suuup, Tachibana -san

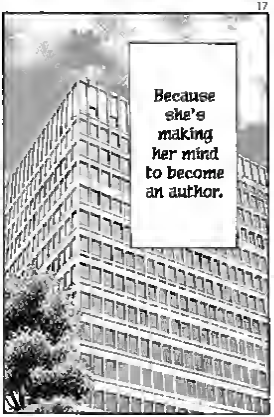
Tachibana Tsuruko. 43 years old.
Novelist.
Yo

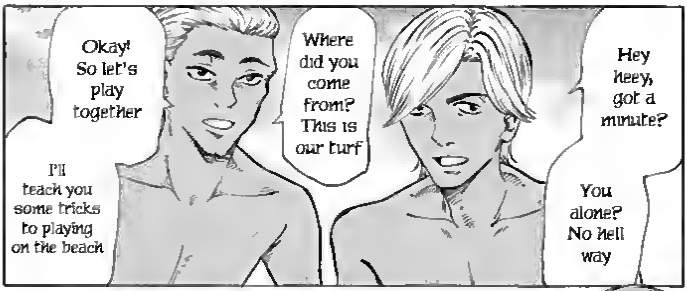
16

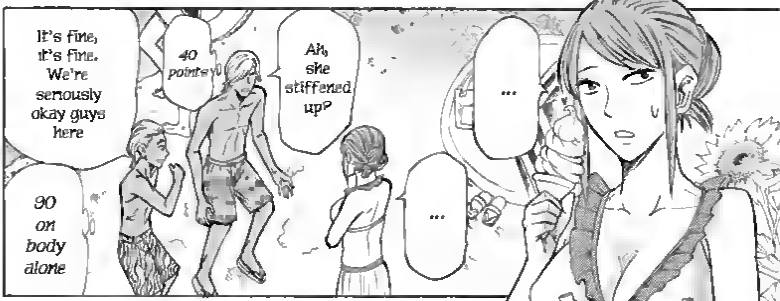
Yoshida Kirihiko. 55 years old.
Novelist.
Good work there

I would like to begin the 'Mokuren' newcomer award selection meeting
And now, all the authors have come together
So starting now


Just wait a little more
Just for 2-3 more hours
I wonder if Hibiki is grasping her phone tightly now

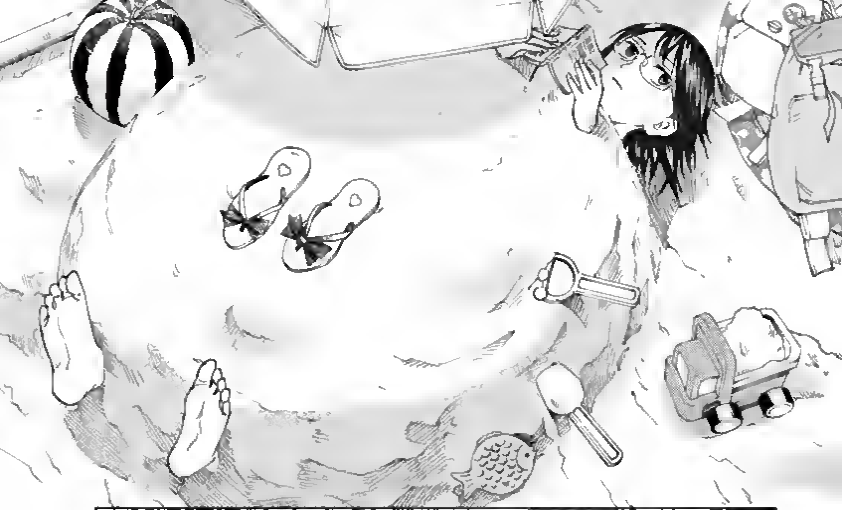

Because she's making her mind to become an author.


Hey
Heey,
got a
minute?
You
alone?
No Hell
way
Where
did you
come
from?
This is
our turf
Okay!
So let's
play
together
I'll
teach you
some tricks
to playing
on the beach


It's fine,
it's fine.
We're
seriously
okay guys
here
40
points
Ah,
she
stiffened
up?
...
...
90
on
body
alone

Are
they
hitting
on
me...?
...
I don't
know
these
people

Oh?
Where're
you going?
Want me
to show
you around?
...

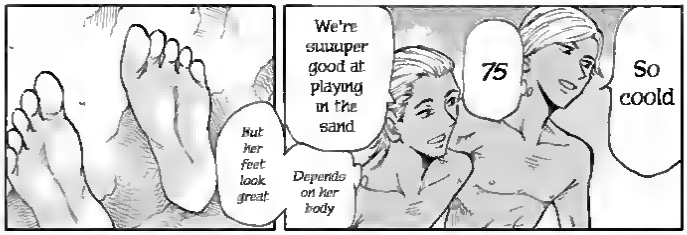


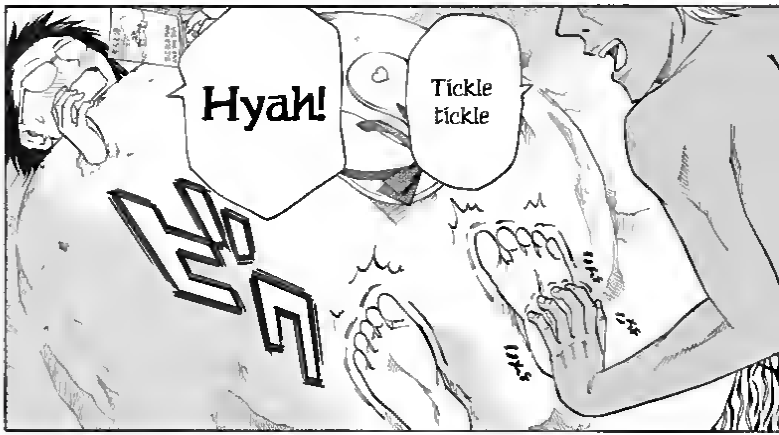
Wh-wha?
Where's every...?
Ahaha, what happened to her?
First time I saw someone reading books while getting buried in sand

Fuck off.

I-I dunno. They just followed me
Whoa?
Whaaa, come play with us on the sand

Rika and Takaya are on the toilet
Dunno about Ryoutarou

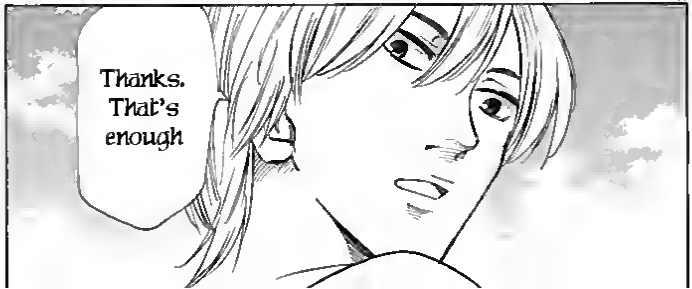

So coold
75
We're suuuuper good at playing in the sand
Depends on her body
But her feet look great


Hyah!
Tickle tickle

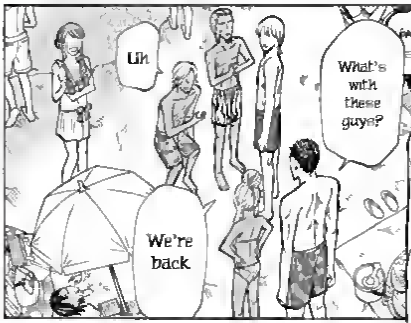
20
オロ オロ オロ
Akaha, hot damn, that's a cute voice
More points for her voice
Upped to 80 points

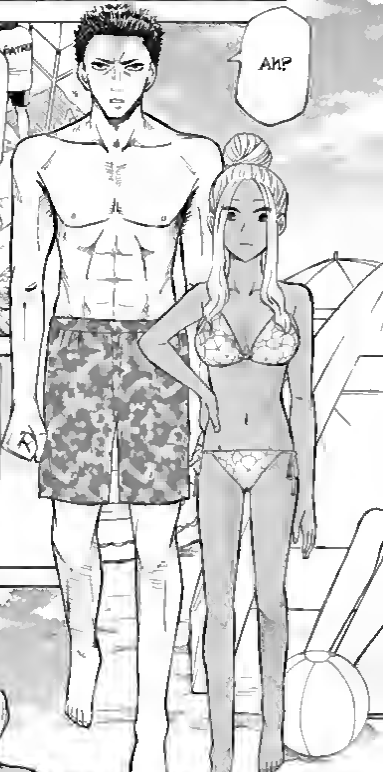
You don't have to fuck off
I'll kill you.
Hyaaah
ビク
Ahaha, so funny
ガッ
Let's do a double now

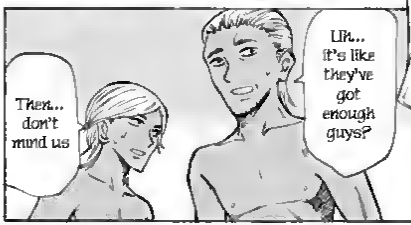
Whoa!


Thanks. That's enough

We'll end you dammit
We know that you're trying to act cool here
So are you picking a fight?
Oh, mister hot guy, you their friend?


Uh
What's with these guys?
We're back

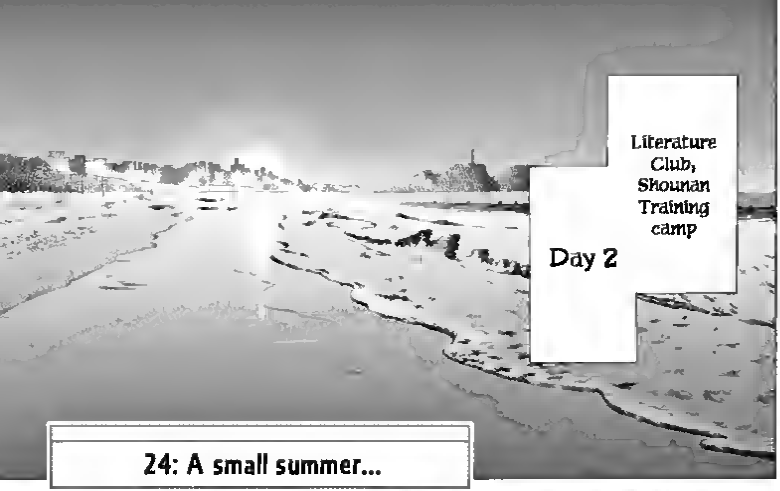

Ah?


Uh... it's like they've got enough guys?
Then... don't mind us

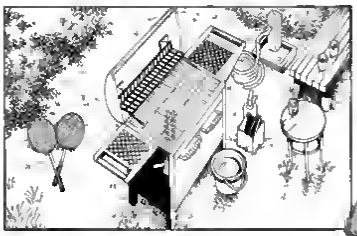
Come on, Hibiki

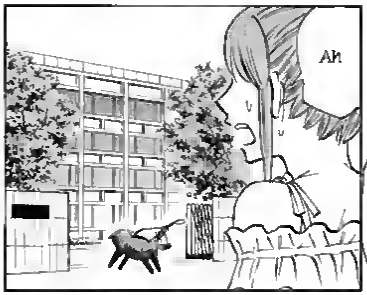
...was Ryouta-kun
Watching over her from afar?
Leave me alone!
When you come to the beach, go play with your friends!
You got involved in weird business because you were reading books all alone in there
CALLING
FUMI
Oh, Hibiki's phone
23
They really do get along
Yup, I see
Okay
I'm at the beach now so I'm hanging up
Hello
Some 'Fumi' person

Got through?
Yup
Who's 'Fumi'?
...an old lady
Kay
So nonchalant,
As if it was obvious ...



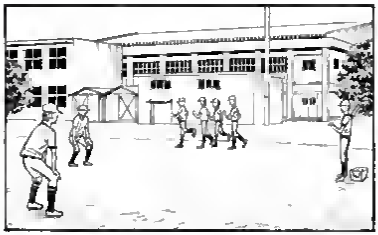
24: A small summer...




Ah

Fitzgerald!
Wait...

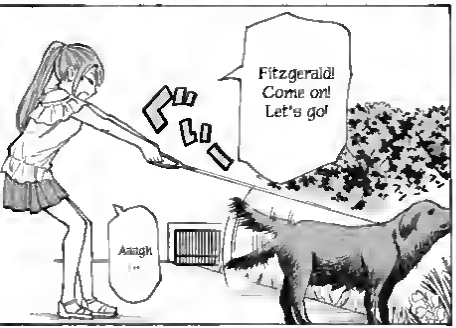
He went into the school
What now, I don't know the place...
I'd be illegally entering...



Don't say that!
It's summer vacation, and it's the early morning
There won't be any teachers around.

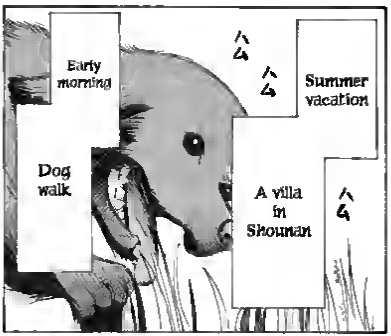
2

There ...
Pat
Pat

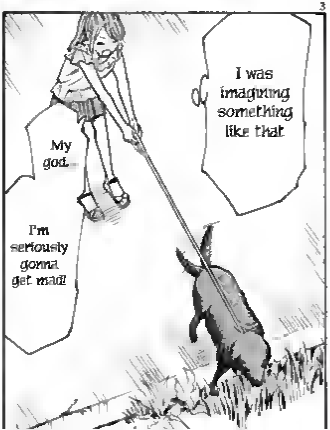

Fitzgerald! Come on! Let's go!
Aaagh...

The baseball club is practicing now
I gotta get out quickly...

Boy meets girl
A small summer love...


Early morning
Dog walk
Summer vacation
A villa in Shounan

I'm aware that I'm a pathetic clumsy girl
But, wow
I can't even walk my dog properly...

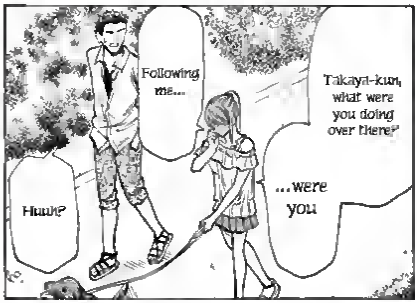

3
I was imagining something like that
My god.
I'm seriously gonna get mad!

キーン
It's going left!
Hey girl! Dodge the ball!
Hey! Fitzgerald!
Bad! Bad!
Moron, where did you hit it?
... wait
Wha-
Death...
Summer vacation
Early morning
Dog walk

...what the hell're you doing
...
Takaya -kun...

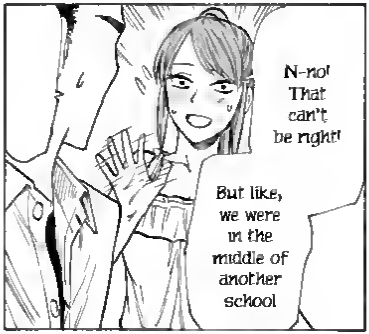
Huh?
I can't. This guy...
Isn't moving
I'm sorry, you guys okay?
Hey. Let's get out before we become a bother
Woof!
Hey doggo!
...
Woof!
Come on, let's go

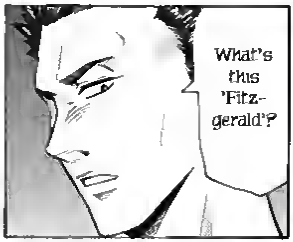
You won't die from pop like that
Thanks Takaya -kun
I thought I was gonna die
No, seriously...


Following me...
Takaya-kun, what were you doing over there?
Huuh?
...were you

He was cool...

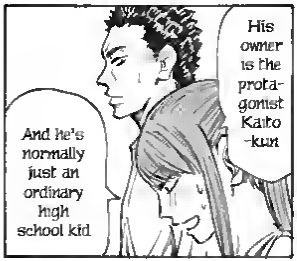
...I like strolling about in places I have no idea about
Ah, I totally get you!

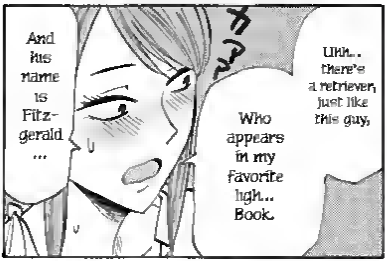

N-no! That can't be right!
But like, we were in the middle of another school

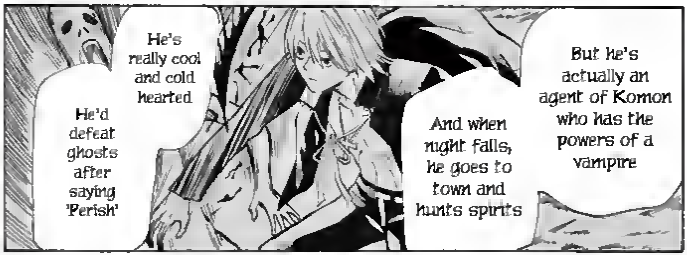

What's this 'Fitz-gerald'?

And I saw you walk into a random school while reciting this weird incantation
Incan-tation?

...you were listening?
His name's doggo, right?
This guy's
The dog of the villa caretaker

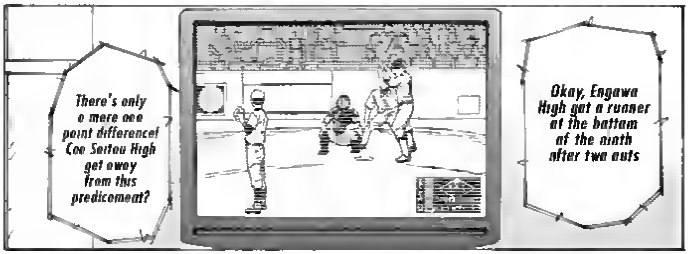

His owner is the protagonist Kaito-kun
And he's normally just an ordinary high school kid

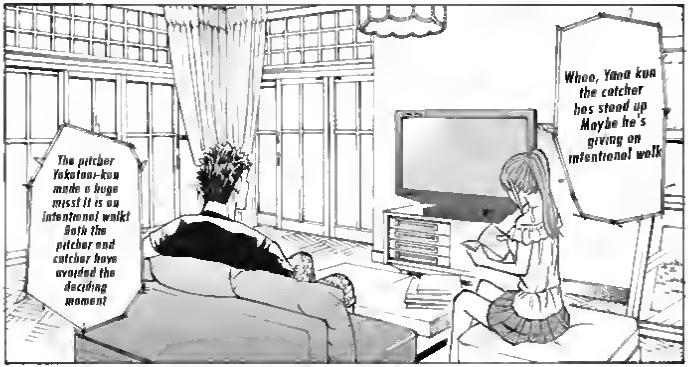

And his name is Fitzgerald...
Uhh... there's a retriever, just like this guy,
Who appears in my favorite high... Book.


He'd defeat ghosts after saying 'Perish'
He's really cool and cold hearted
But he's actually an agent of Komon who has the powers of a vampire
And when night falls, he goes to town and hunts spirits

...
That's just super cute!
But when he goes back home, he sleeps in his futon with Fitzgerald!

響～小説家になる方法～3


There's only a mere one point difference! Coe Seitou High get away from this predicament?
Okay, Engawa High got a runner at the bottom of the ninth after two outs


Whoa, Yana kun the catcher has stood up Maybe he's giving an intentional walk
The pitcher Yokotou-kun made a huge mess! It is an intentional walk! Both the pitcher and catcher have avoided the deciding moment

Takaya, go buy the fireworks for us

Whoa, Nikaidou-kun swung a strike at the intentional ball!

He's appealing to bring it on! Well...

Damnit
Hm?
Uuuu
Well, the catcher sat down! It's a match! He was roused by the provocation!
Huuh? Why me?
There's a lot
And both Ryouta-kun and Hibiki -chan are at the beach
Me too...

...1,85
Takaya -kun, how tall are you?

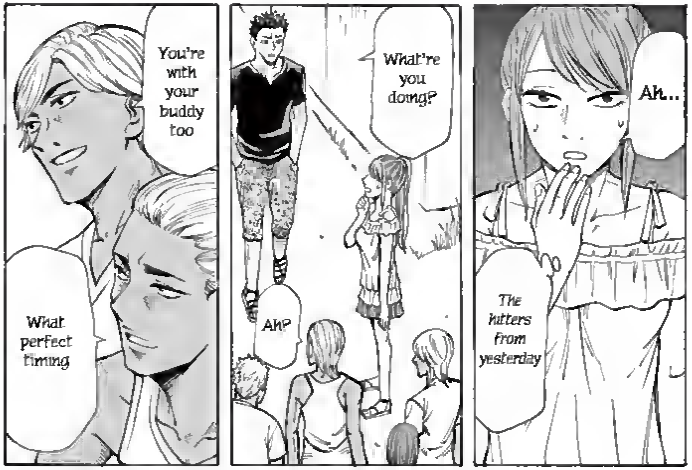
I guess it feels kinda nice...
That's what I thought
It's nice to be smaller when I'm next to you
I'm a girl, but I'm 172, so I have a complex about it
Uhhh...
Huuh?
Takaya -kun, are you
Seeing Rika -san...?
11
I see...
But you're often together
No, it's not like I couldn't really see it
...we're just buds
That's just simply the case
I- I see
What kinda girl would you like...?
...so by the way Takaya -kun

Don't talk about romance all the time
Have you even looked in a mirror before?
I mean
Just repulsive ...
12
ドン

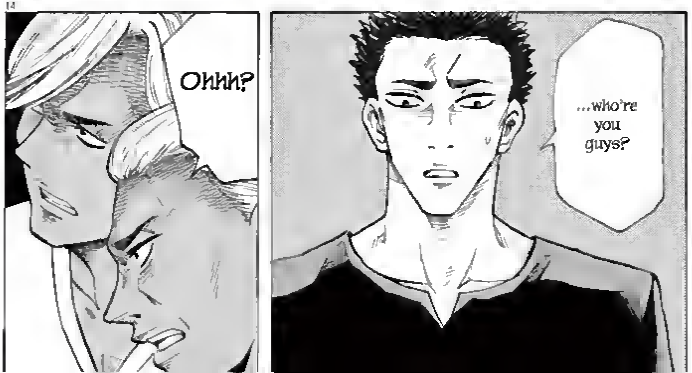
... dummy!
So embarrassed
Mean.
I wanna go away
Kya

What's up lady
...wait
I-I'm sorry

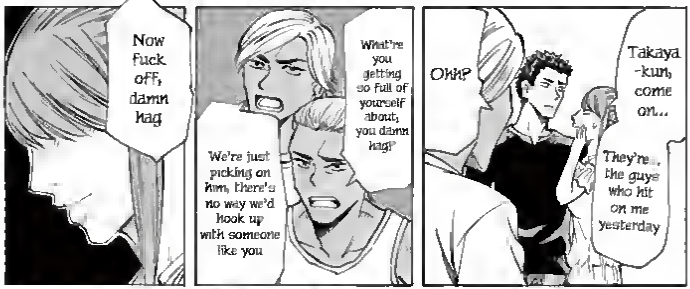
Well if it isn't the girl from yesterday
You're still here, huh


You're with your buddy too
What perfect timing
What're you doing?
Ah?
Ah...
The hitters from yesterday

Now what, it's a 5 vs 1 now, okay?
But if you apologize, we'll listen
We got shamed by you yesterday


Ohhh?
...who're you guys?

No, seriously...
Anyways, get on your knees
Then we'll let you off with a half beating
Must be hard to try and look cool in front of the girls
Did you freak out about the numbers?


Now fuck off, damn hag
We're just picking on him, there's no way we'd hook up with someone like you
What're you getting so full of yourself about, you damn hag!?
Ohh?
Takaya-kun, come on...
They're... the guys who hit on me yesterday

You burn my...

If you want a fight, just tell me from the get-go

Agh
ガシ

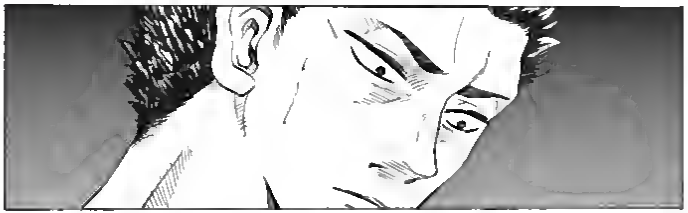
You fucking insane?
It's a 5 on 1

No...
We don't even know what's happening
I mean, hell no...

Now it's a 3 on 1
You guys want in too?

Tch
17
I have looked
In a mirror before
Over and over again...
My face won't ever change
Even if I dye my hair, I put on makeup,
Hag, huh
I guess so

I tried really hard
To try and look a little cuter...

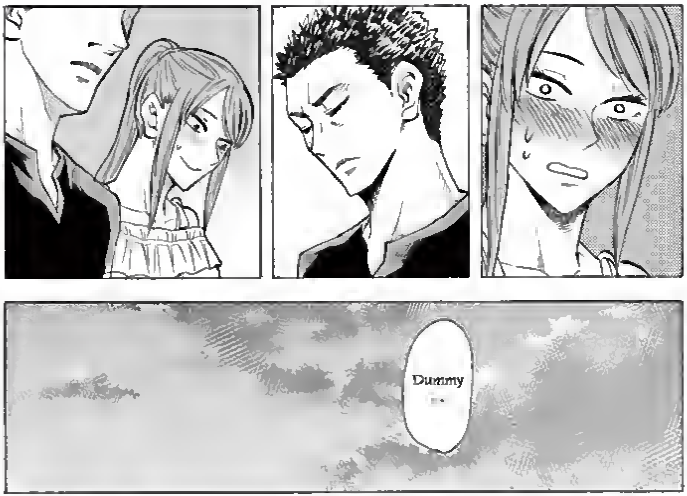


Don't just casually call out to someone like me
You can probably pick better partners
I look like shit
And I got nothing to really talk about with the likes of you
As you see
I'm nothing but a damn hoodlum

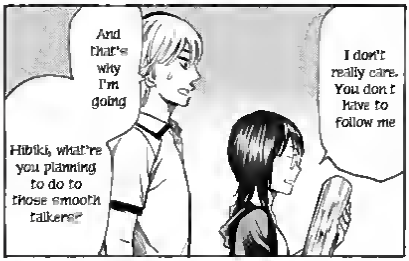
I'm just a hag...
Oh?
...it's fine
You don't have to fuss over me

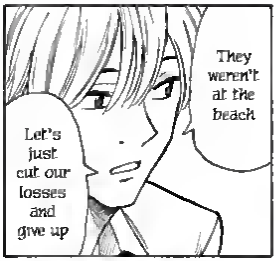
This is why I asked if you looked in a mirror before.

You're cute, Kayoko


Dummy

パッ


Hibiki, what're you planning to do to those smooth talkers?
And that's why I'm going
I don't really care. You don't have to follow me

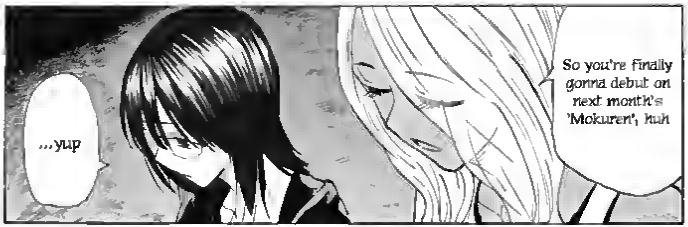

Let's just cut our losses and give up
They weren't at the beach

Hm?
Ah

She's really capable of anything

They're dead
It's the first time someone humiliated me that bad

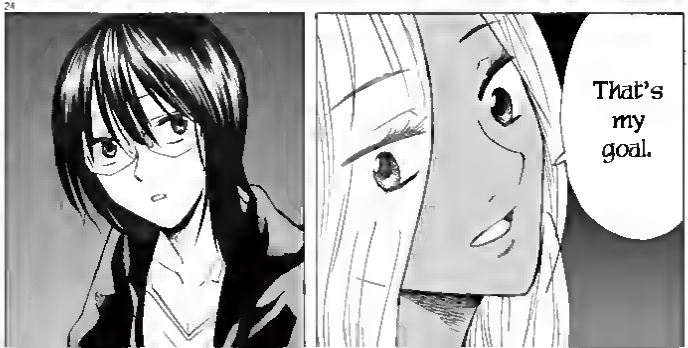
Hit
Hibiki...
You kill...
I-I didn't do anything
Wait, they're alive


So you're finally gonna debut on next month's 'Mokuren', huh
...yup

My volume is out on November
I'm putting some desperate revisions in my manuscript now
Yeah
So Inomata Kouji's 'River of Fire' is doing amazingly now
...yeah?
It's not only the Akutagawa recipient, it's also a best seller

Now well
It's a social phenomenon
It's on TV everyday, and it has special segments in magazines

We should also aim
For the next Akutagawa prize


That's my goal.

響～小説家になる方法～3

ビッグ コミックス

ISBN978-4-09-187368-2

2016年1月2日初版第1刷発行

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発行者　大村信

印刷所　中央精版印刷株式会社

Printed in Japan

「ビッグコミックスペリオール」'15年第15号、第16号、第18号～第20号、第22号～第24号掲載作品
連載担当／石田貴信
単行本編集責任／赤名美之
単行本編集／石田貴信、向井正二（小学館ナニング）板倉杏奈（小学館ナニング）

発行所　（〒101-8001）東京都千代田区一ツ橋二の三の一
TEL 編集03（3230）5509
販売03（5281）3556
株式会社小学館

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書　名　響～小説家になる方法～　3
著者名　柳本光晴
発　行　株式会社小学館
〒101－8001　東京都千代田区一ツ橋２－３－１

電子書籍制作会社　株式会社昭和ブライト